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JOBS WILL GO AS KCC FACES BUDGET CUTS

Predicted £200m funding shortfall sees County Hall planning to axe 600-700 posts

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

HUNDREDS of jobs will be lost over the next three years as Kent County Council struggles against a predicted £200 million funding shortfall.

Finance chiefs at County Hall are readying themselves for drastic reductions in the amount of money they receive from the Government, regardless of who wins the next general election.

About £42m of savings have already been identified from next year's budget, but a further £10m still needs to be cut – and between 600-700 posts will be axed.

KCC employs more than 40,000 staff.

However, the authority says it is confident the shortfall will not affect frontline services and the majority of jobs lost will be through natural wastage and non-replacement of staff who leave.

Any council tax increases should also be kept to a minimum and will most likely be below last year's rise of 2.4 per cent.

Cabinet member for finance Cllr John Simmonds said: "I think what's important is that we haven't been idle and we've already saved £110m over the last three years because we always knew the gravy train was going to halt.

"It would have been foolish not to plan ahead and we would be a terribly irresponsible authority if we said we will worry about it next year.

"The headline news looks alarming, but life isn't going to grind to a halt. By having foresight we can minimise the effects, and although it looks frightening on the face of it, I think we have the time to look at alternative ways of doing things."

KCC officers have been instructed to come up with cost-cutting proposals over the next few weeks, including a review of frontline services to see how funds can be spent more efficiently. This is likely to result in a major staff reorganisation and a possible sharing of office accommodation with other public sector partners like the NHS.

Cllr Simmonds said existing initiatives were already saving the authority cash, such as a permit scheme that prohibits utilities companies from digging up and subsequently

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Star takes on TV role as Noddy author

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Kent today

TODAY: Sunny spells, but also showers, the showers will be heavy for a time with the risk of the odd thunderstorm. Showers easing later. Strong winds easing. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F). TONIGHT: Cloudy with rain, this heavy and persistent for much of the night. Fresh to strong winds. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		C	F			C	F
Aberdeen	fair	10	50	London	cloudy	15	59
Belfast	fair	10	50	Liverpool	showers	13	55
Birmingham	fair	13	55	Manchester	fair	13	55
B'mouth	showers	14	57	Newcastle	fair	11	52
Bristol	showers	14	57	Norwich	fair	14	57
Cardiff	showers	14	57	Oxford	fair	14	57
Cork	showers	12	54	Southsea	showers	14	57
Edinburgh	fair	11	52	S'hampton	showers	14	57
Glasgow	showers	11	52	Southport	showers	12	54
Isle of Man	showers	13	55	Swansea	showers	13	55
Leeds	showers	11	52	Torquay	rain	13	55

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.16am	Sunset	4.31pm	Lighting up time 4.59pm to 7.16am
Moonrise	5.03am	Moonset	3.31pm	

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	am	ht	pm	ht	am	ht	pm	ht
Dover	09.36	6.6	22.03	6.4	10.17	6.6	22.42	6.5
Margate	10.35	4.7	23.07	4.6	11.20	4.7	23.47	4.6
St Mary's	03.10	5.4	15.31	5.5	03.52	5.5	16.12	5.5

Week ahead

monday — Heavy showers. max 14C min 9C
tuesday — Heavy showers. max 14C min 9C
wednesday — Showers. max 14C min 10C
thursday — Heavy rain. max 15C min 9C
friday — A few showers. max 14C min 9C
saturday — Showers. max 13C min 10C

Leak shows Boris keen on 'bravest' airport plan

By **MARIJKE COX**
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LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson appears determined to push on with his demands for a Thames Estuary airport, despite dismissing the scheme only last month.

His plans were revealed in a leaked document shown to the BBC in which he said construction of the £40 billion floating airport was the "bravest" project the Greater London Authority (GLA) could do.

A spokesman for Mr Johnson said he could not comment on the document, but confirmed the Mayor believed an estuary airport would be valuable for London.

Just last month, eccentric Mr Johnson told the GLA transport committee he had no aspirations to construct 'Boris Island' off the coast of north Kent.

A spokesman said: "There is a huge amount of work to be done before an estuary airport could even begin to go through the planning process. Mr Johnson asked for an initial feasibility study and has followed the report's recommendation to set up a Thames Estuary Steering Group.

"He believes the complex and critical decisions on Britain's aviation future require mature exploration of every possible option and the steering group's research will be invaluable when deciding if a new airport in the estuary could meet our future needs."

It is believed oil-rich Gulf states have expressed interest in bankrolling the scheme. Interest in the controversial project has also been expressed by the Chinese.

BLOND AMBITION: London Mayor Boris Johnson favours an estuary airport

But Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter dismissed the latest comments from Mr Johnson as "nonsense".

He said: "It's just inconsistent messages coming from the Greater London Authority. There is no chance of it ever being built, so all we can do is make sure the unsuitable idea remains sunk."

Medway Council, KCC and the RSPB have teamed up to fight against the airport scheme on the grounds it would have a massive impact on the area and environment.

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£200m budget shortfall puts hundreds of jobs at risk

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

damaging the roads without a licence.

He added: "The review of the frontline services is not for us to see what we can get rid of, but rather what we can use more efficiently."

KCC has an annual budget of £1.5 billion, but economists are predicting a 40 per cent cut in central government support over the next three years.

County Hall finance director Lynda McMullan said local authorities could even be struggling for the next decade.

She added: "We have all more or less come to similar conclusions, although some will be hit harder than others. Essex County Council, for instance, is facing a shortfall of about £300m. "We're going to have to look at services differently. As [KCC leader] Paul Carter is fond of saying, we might have used gold-plated things in the past when galvanised steel might have been good enough."

Earlier this year about 2,000 KCC workers voted for industrial action in protest at being offered only a one per cent pay increase, but Cllr Simmonds said he expected staff to be more understanding this time around.

He said: "I think there's a recognition about the seriousness of the situation and a feeling that people would rather keep their jobs than have us pay big salaries.

"We still have to negotiate with staff, but there won't be any five, 10 or 15 per cent increases, I can assure you of that.

"Whatever we do we have to be very prudent, but that won't come as any surprise to our staff."

FINANCE chiefs have rubbished claims Kent County Council may not receive as much cash back from Icelandic banks as previously expected, *writes Steve Knight.*

Earlier this week the Telegraph reported that Glitnir – in which the authority had invested £14.5m of taxpayers' money – had discovered a £670m hole in its accounts and might not be able to pay as much back to its creditors as first thought.

However, KCC finance director Lynda McMullan says the bank still has enough cash to pay back all those institutes that have preferred creditor status, including the council.

Ms McMullan added that she still expects KCC to recoup more than 92 per cent of the £50m total that was frozen in the Icelandic banking system, and that the situation is completely unrelated to the predicted £200m funding shortfall the council is currently preparing for.

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Blyton story on TV

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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RENOWNED children's author Enid Blyton is the subject of a new BBC TV drama to be screened tomorrow.

The former Bromley writer may have died 41 years ago, but her literary creations – including Noddy and The Famous Five – are still enjoyed by millions of youngsters around the world.

The first of BBC Four's three-part Women We Loved series, Enid features Oscar-nominated actress Helena Bonham Carter in the lead role as well as Spooks actor Matthew Macfadyen and Star Wars veteran Denis Lawson.

Director James Hawes told KOS Media Blyton's life made for a fascinating biopic.

He said: "She was a formidable woman and you have to admire anyone who has the sort of determination she had to be exactly what they want to be.

"She was so absolutely certain that she had a particular gift for writing and connecting with her audience that she was able to turn it into a hugely successful career.

"But you also have to feel sorry for her because she had such an unhappy childhood that left her deeply scarred.

"Also, her uterus never fully developed and to some extent she was forever a child. Although that allowed her to understand children better, it also left her less well-equipped for adult life. The film is both upbeat and sad. At the time of her marriage and the publication of her first book, Blyton was joyful and euphoric.

"But it's also deeply sad when you look at how much of her life went wrong and what she was unable to cope with. She ended up a very lonely woman."

TEA PARTY: Helena Bonham Carter as Enid Blyton in a scene from the BBC's delightful evocation of the children's author's life and times (above)
LONELY: Enid Blyton attended St Christopher's School in Bromley (left)

Blyton, who died aged 71, attended St Christopher's School in Beckenham, Bromley, between 1907 and 1915 and left as head girl. In the BBC drama, her first husband, Hugh Pollock, will be played by Macfadyen, while Lawson takes up the role of Blyton's second spouse, Kenneth Darrell Waters.

Mr Hawes said Bonham Carter – who received a Best Actress Oscar nomination for her part in the 2007 musical Sweeney Todd – was the perfect choice to play the author.

He said: "She gives an extraordinary portrayal, full of passion and precision, and the way she tells Blyton's story is just amazing.

"She put such a lot of effort into it and even taught herself how to write the signature that's on all of Blyton's books.

"A lot of people know Helena from playing offbeat characters in Harry Potter and Sweeney Todd, so to see her play a real-life person with such great detail is fantastic."

The two other stars due to be featured in the Women We Loved series are singer and comedian Gracie Fields, and ballerina Margot Fonteyn.

• ***Enid will be screened tomorrow night at 9pm on BBC 4.***

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NHS security vow

HOSPITAL chiefs have pledged to tighten the security of patients' personal information after a fourth laptop computer containing health records was stolen.

Four laptops have been taken from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust hospitals within the space of a month – one of which was not security protected and contained audiology test results for 33 patients.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) found the trust in breach of the Data Protection Act and chief executive Glenn Douglass has signed an agreement with the ICO in which he vows to improve security.

New pecking order

TOUGHER, seagull-proof bags are to be tested where the birds have been pecking their way through rubbish sacks.

Seven roads in Ramsgate have been selected for the trial after complaints about litter.

In all, 220 properties will get reusable sacks and the pilot will run from February to September, 2010. Standard black sacks will be put inside the tougher polypropylene bags and left out for collection.

To see this search 'Powell'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Actor Robert Powell on his career and role in next year's Leeds Castle classical concert

Coastal energy park plan floated by Tory shadow

A MARINE energy park should be built on the Kent coast to take advantage of its closeness to the Continent, says an influential MP.

Shadow energy and climate change secretary Greg Clark says if the Government had funded such an initiative 10 years ago, the county could already be leading the way in using wind and tidal power to provide electricity to the rest of Europe.

The Tunbridge Wells MP spoke of his vision for such a park – which would see a cluster of businesses sharing resources and expertise – at a marine energy summit in Ramsgate, on Tuesday.

He told KOS Media afterwards that should the Conservatives win power at the next general election, developing a strong renewable energy sector will be one of the party's priorities.

Mr Clark said: "Kent's coastline is an amazing resource and unique in the UK due to its proximity to the Continent.

"It's feasible that we should be providing electricity to the rest of Europe from somewhere like Ramsgate because it would be a lot quicker and easier to set up from there.

"We have a national emergency with energy and the Government is forecasting power cuts by 2017, so we desperately need more energy.

"Oil and gas prices have been volatile and we could end up paying much more for it in the future. There are also our climate change objectives to consider. Burning oil and gas is harmful to the environment and we need to find ways to reduce it.

"Nowhere else in the EU has the natural resources we do and we ought to be a world leader in this field, but instead we are one of the least-developed countries in Europe."

Picture: REX FEATURES

GREG CLARK MP

The marine energy summit – which was co-hosted by the Tories' South Thanet parliamentary candidate Laura Sandys – was held at the Portobello Restaurant's function room.

As well as leading figures from the renewable energy sector, the meeting was also attended by representatives from the University of Kent and Kent County Council.

Mr Clark said he felt the Government should also be having public discussions about the issue. He said: "The Government has had its head in the sand for 10 years. They should have known North Sea oil and gas was going to run out, but they've done nothing.

"If we had established energy parks 10 years ago Kent might already be exporting energy abroad rather than us just sitting here talking about it."

• ***See page 6 for the latest news about Dungeness power station.***

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French 'should pay Stack compensation'

By **MARIJKE COX**
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PEOPLE and businesses that lose money because of Operation Stack could have a case for compensation against the French government.

That's the view of Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter who told delegates – including ministers and industry insiders – at a meeting on Tuesday that legal advice had been sought over the impact of French strikes on Kent and its economy.

The meeting at the House of Lords was part of a traffic campaign started by KCC to deal with problems on the county's roads.

During Stack the M20 is turned into a giant lorry park, causing hold-ups and traffic chaos in the area, with huge financial losses for business. Stack is mainly implemented due to French industrial action that blocks the ports, stopping lorries using cross-Channel ferries.

Cllr Carter said: "The misery caused to tens and thousands of people affected by the strikes and the impact on businesses and travel plans should not be underestimated. The closure of Calais harms our economy."

Blockading

It is estimated by the Federation of Small Businesses that blockades at Calais and the subsequent stoppage of crossings costs the UK haulage industry £1 million a day.

And with delays on deliveries and traffic problems caused by Operation Stack a further £500,000 is lost daily.

Cllr Carter said the French authorities could be in breach of EU rules governing the free movement of people and goods when they fail to take action against illegal strikers blockading French ports. This might mean businesses and residents affected by strikes could receive compensation for losses.

Cllr Carter said: "With the French authorities failing to take action against illegal strike action in Calais they are in breach of Article 28 of the European Commission Treaty. This means they could be liable for damages caused to people who are affected by the blockades. I have written to Lord Mandelson about it. Our Government needs to take this matter to the French Government. It's up to the Government to sort this problem out."

Business secretary Lord Mandelson has agreed to pursue the issue. Cllr Carter also called for a long-term answer to Stack.

"It is essential to find a solution, but we need to find the means to fund it," he said. "Charges should be imposed on foreign lorry drivers using UK roads, which would pay for infrastructure and a long-term plan to deal with Operation Stack.

"Thousands could be raised through this. Foreign lorry drivers already have an advantage over UK hauliers by filling up with cheaper fuel before coming to Britain."

As part of KCC's traffic campaign, a formal complaint has been made to the European Commission to highlight the effect of strike action on the county.

Further concerns were raised about the planned expansion of Calais port.

In 2007, about four million lorries passed through Kent via the Port of Dover and this figure is expected to rise by two-thirds over the next 30 years. This could mean even more HGVs parked on the M20 in the event of strikes. But Cllr Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said his authority was backing the Calais port plans.

"It is crucial for the economy of the UK and Europe that both the ports are able to gear-up to accommodate future growth," he said.

"In the face of an ever-expanding international market, if one is to grow, the other needs to keep pace if balance is to be maintained."

KCC is also pushing for a third Thames crossing to improve connections with the rest of the UK, and greater use of Kent International Airport at Manston in Thanet.

COUNTING THE COST: Operation Stack has a massive adverse impact on the Kent economy

Deadly driver to be deported

A MAN found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving after an elderly man was struck by his out-of-control car has been jailed.

Khuram Mahfooz, 24, of Lincoln Road, Maidstone, was driving at speed along Cumberland Avenue in the county town on June 27, 2008, when he mounted the pavement, striking 75-year-old Sidney Freeman and his wife from behind as they were walking home.

Mr Freeman died at the scene and his wife suffered a broken ankle. Mahfooz was also charged with having no insurance or MoT.

He was sentenced to three years in prison and will be deported to Pakistan on completion of his jail term.

To view, search 'challenge' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Meet all the winners at the KOS Media £1 Million Business Challenge awards night

WEST End stars of the future are wanted for a stage production of The Wizard of Oz next year. Dartford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society needs youngsters aged seven and above to play Munchkins at Dartford's Orchard Theatre. Auditions take place on Sunday, November 29, from 10am at the theatre. Children must be under 4ft 9in. Visit www.daods.org.uk for more details.

Fending off the bugs with a healthy diet this winter

WITH winter closing fast and temperatures falling, now is the time of year we really need to keep fit – and a healthy diet can help fend off colds and flu.

Health chiefs said eating well can stave off the bugs and cut down on the need for intervention by doctors and hospitals.

They said keeping as fit as possible will make our bodies better equipped to fight seasonal flu, coughs, colds and even swine flu.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent has issued a top 10 of healthy eating tips to make sure people stay well.

Director of nursing Sarah Andrews said: "Most people probably know that keeping yourself as healthy as you can is important all year round. But your eating habits can make even more of a difference when it comes to keeping well in winter.

"Eating regularly and eating well helps keep energy levels up and can boost immune systems. These top tips are some of the best ways to get through the winter in the best possible health."

The diet tips to stay well include eating at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, plus basing meals on starchy foods such as bread, potatoes, rice or pasta, choosing wholegrain varieties.

Drink at least one litre of water a day and cut out fizzy, sugary drinks. Limit food and drinks high in sugar and saturated fat and choose lower-fat meat, poultry and dairy foods, plus more fish like salmon, fresh tuna, mackerel, sardines and trout.

Cut alcohol and salt, and don't skip meals like breakfast, and ensure you eat a variety of foods to get all the nutrients a body needs.

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Brown's whistlestop tour reveals Dungeness is still a future option for nuclear plant

New atom plant not completely ruled out, says Prime Minister

By **MARIJKE COX**
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PRIME Minister Gordon Brown has revealed that Dungeness will not be completely ruled out as a possible location for a new nuclear power station.

His announcement came during a visit to Kent on Thursday, just days after Dungeness was dismissed from a list of 11 shortlisted sites. He said: "We only announced the first round therefore the chance of this happening here [in Dungeness] is still something that has got to be looked at for the future.

"The sources of expertise and technology in this region are very good indeed and I think for the future it's going to be very much part of our plans."

His comments follow MP Michael Howard's vow to fight the Government's decision to scrap plans for a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.

The Tory politician, who represents Folkestone and Hythe, told Kent on Sunday he was disappointed with energy secretary Ed Miliband's announcement that the site had been dropped. Mr Howard promised to do all he could to overturn the decision.

Had the site been approved, the new Dungeness C reactor would have seen about 2,000 workers employed during construction and a further 350-450 over a 60-year period.

But it was revealed in the House of Commons on Monday that it had not been shortlisted due to the "adverse affect" it would have on the area's unique ecosystem, based on advice from Natural England, an advisory body on the environment.

This is despite the fact Dungeness B is already running at the site, employing more than 500 people directly and generating electricity for more than a million homes.

Mr Howard said: "I've raised my views and spoken to the Secretary of State and I have been assured that Natural England's advice will not be given a veto. This development isn't just important for employment, we need to get as much nuclear power as we can.

POWER POINT: Balancing environmental and human needs with Dungeness

"There is already a power station at Dungeness, so why another can't be built is exactly the point I am trying to raise. I will do all I can to fight the Government – and the new government if one is voted in next year – to get this decision overturned."

Dungeness owner EDF also expressed disappointment at the announcement and said it would respond to the Government's decision once it had read the draft National Nuclear Policy Statement (NNPS) and understood reasons for the exclusion.

A spokesman said: "Dungeness is an extremely important site for EDF Energy and the company is fully committed to the community and employees at the site.

"We plan to operate Dungeness B until at least 2018 and will extend its life beyond that if it is both safe and economic to do so.

"It is important to note that the draft NNPS is focused on sites the Government judges could be important for delivering low-carbon, nuclear electricity by 2025.

"Many people believe that beyond 2025 the UK will need even more low-carbon electricity and, if this is the case, further development at Dungeness could well prove to be in the national interest at a future date."

Officials at Shepway District Council said they had been left "puzzled" by the Government's decision.

An official said: "There has been a power station at Dungeness since the late 1950s. It has had no adverse effect on the environment or coastal erosion and has provided hundreds of jobs which communities on the Romney Marsh can ill-afford to lose."

But Natural England stressed the Dungeness habitat was fragile and unique. A spokesman said: "Natural England provided technical advice that at this strategic stage, based on the evidence available, it would be extremely unlikely for a proposal at Dungeness to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations."

He added that the organisation had worked with Dungeness A – which began decommissioning work in 2006 – and B for many years and valued the co-operative working relationship with EDF.

"The habitat at Dungeness is fragile and unique and this has called for particular effort on behalf of the stations to conduct their business in an environmentally sensitive way to comply with legislation.

"It is hoped this valuable work will continue, in partnership with Natural England, to protect and enhance the designated sites at Dungeness."

The RSPB supported Natural England in its views and submitted a detailed response to the Government stating why Dungeness was unsuitable for a new power station.

Sam Dawes, conservation manager for RSPB South East, said: "We are pleased they have agreed with our environmental concerns and recognise the area's international importance for wildlife."

Speculation that Kingsnorth power station, on the Hoo Peninsula, could be used for future nuclear development has been dismissed by owner E.ON.

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ALL SMILES: Gordon Brown chats to St John's School head Diana Keating

Question time at meet and greet

THE Prime Minister met community leaders during a whistlestop tour of the county.

Mr Brown joined the 14-strong group at Medway Labour group leader Cllr Paul Godwin's Walderslade home on Thursday lunchtime, having earlier visited Delphi Diesel Systems in Gillingham.

After being introduced to the group – including teachers, sixth-form students and minority forum members – Mr Brown fielded questions.

St John's Infant School headteacher Diana Keating asked if anything could be done to help save the school from closure, while All Saints' Community Project manager called for more regular and assured funding.

After the informal meeting Mr Brown spent five minutes with the media. On the topic of rail fares, the Prime Minister said: "The most important thing to say is that prices are linked to inflation and the Retail Price Index has not been going up.

Confident

"Fares could be kept at a similar level next year based on the fact that inflation is very low. Interest is low for homeowners and I think people appreciate that."

On the chances of Labour retaining its three seats in Medway in the next general election, Mr Brown said he was confident the electorate would back them.

"We've got great MPs in Medway," he said. "We've been working very hard to get through this difficult recession: protecting services and at the same time creating new job opportunities and better local services."

With regard to the plight of St John's and Ridge Meadow schools – both earmarked for closure by Tory-run Medway Council, Mr Brown added: "We're trying to do our best, with Every Child Matters funding going up. There has been no directive to close schools. The council should listen to parents."

After the meeting Mr Brown travelled to Maidstone. He is believed to have been in a meeting with town centre manager Bill Moss and other representatives at the town hall to discuss the Kent International Gateway.

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Scientist urges cooperation to feed the world

A SCIENTIST has stressed the need for worldwide cooperation to tackle the global problem of food security as the population continues to grow, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Dr Chris Atkinson, head of science at East Malling Research (EMR), said every country has to be on board to help guarantee sustainable food sources, while also limiting the impact production has on climate change.

He said: "Kent in particular can play a part in ensuring levels of food productivity are kept up. This county is perceived as the Garden of England.

"Many fruits grow here, but with climate change and warmer weather, fruits such as apricots, peaches and cherries – water-based fruit that didn't grow here before – will start to be produced.

"Other crops may also be moved elsewhere in the UK to suit the changing climate."

Summit

His comments come in the run up to the Copenhagen summit next month, where representatives from 160 countries will look at issues surrounding climate change, one of which is the production of food. EMR specialises in horticultural research and development.

Dr Atkinson also backed calls by the Royal Society for the UK to plough £200 million a year for the next decade into research to help ensure the UK and the rest of the world have access to the right crops and levels of productivity to ensure food security, while mitigating climate change.

He said: "By 2050, the global population will have grown to nine billion and all these people need to be fed.

"Diets are also changing in places like India and China where people are becoming more affluent. Every country has to make compromises with food exports to make sure people worldwide are fed – not just their own countries." He added: "Improved methods also have to be looked into with irrigation and water efficiency, and systems have to be put in place to decrease the amount of nitrogen produced through fertilisers. The input of nitrogen as an issue impacting on climate change must be an immediate research priority.

"The over-application of nitrogen-based fertilizers can lead to pollution entering water courses and, worryingly, produces nitrous oxide which is 300 times more aggressive than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas."

The report by the Royal Society was also welcomed by Dr Ian Graham-Bryce, chairman of East Malling Trust for Horticultural Research, the UK's largest independent funder of fruit research.

He said: "Through our funding for EMR it is clear there is an enormous amount of work that could be done in terms of genetics, pathology, entomology and soil science to enhance production and mitigate climate change. The primary focus at EMR is how to help the industry increase yields to strengthen our food security and reduce the impact of production on the environment.

"At the heart of the issue of food security is the alarming contraction in the nation's scientific base and with it our ability to develop new techniques and breed varieties able to withstand the impact of climate change and deliver the yields to feed ourselves."

ONE WORLD: Feeding an expanding population while minimising the impact on climate change will present enormous political and scientific challenges, says Dr Chris Atkinson

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

'Jury still out on Kent TV'

A REVIEW praising the service provided by Kent TV has been attacked for not taking the views of the public into account.

Kent County Council needs to decide before Christmas whether to extend the internet TV station's contract beyond next March, and it commissioned the consultancy firm Capgemini to report on its performance over the last two years.

The review states the general response to the Kent TV pilot from interviews with 36 people was positive, although 16 of those spoken to were in some way connected to KCC or the channel.

The remainder were stakeholders from bodies such as Kent Police, Heart FM and the homeless charity Porchlight.

At a County Hall meeting on Friday, KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "One thing I'm certain of is that Kent TV does have enormous potential.

Decisions

"But we need to be convinced that in two years' time we have an A-star service rather than a B-grade one if we continue with it.

"But no decisions have been made yet and the jury is still out."

But Liberal Democrat leader Cllr Trudy Dean said the public should have been asked for their views.

She said: "The only relevant figure in this report is that there have been just over 2.3 million views of Kent TV in two years. It's so far cost us £1.6 million, which works out at about 80p per viewer.

"Whatever the potential for this is, it has not been realised in the first two years – nowhere near. If I'm wrong and there are figures to prove it, then for goodness sake let's see them."

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Benefits of adopting siblings

A LEADING children's charity is urging people in Kent to consider adopting siblings as the number of youngsters in care soars to more than 60,000 nationwide, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Adoption experts at Action for Children said too many vulnerable brothers and sisters are being split up in the county as adopters opt to take just one child.

Carol Buckley, service manager at the charity's south east project, said there is now more than ever a desperate need to find loving homes and for vulnerable siblings to stay together.

Her message comes as National Adoption Week draws to a close and the nationwide figure of children in care reaches 60,900.

About 4,000 of those are waiting to be adopted. Ms Buckley said: "With such a high number of children entering care, the need for adopters is at an all-time high. To many, the idea of adopting more than one child can feel overwhelming.

"However, from our own work we know that with the right support, families adopting siblings can flourish. When siblings enter care together and all other family ties have been broken, it's so important that, where possible, we keep them together.

"To do this we desperately need adopters to consider if they think they could take on more than one child."

A lesbian couple who decided to take on two young brothers said it was the best thing they ever did and urged others to consider it.

Ali and Kate, from Erith, who are both experienced teachers, adopted the boys, now nine and 11, six years ago.

Ali said: "Kate already had children from a previous marriage, but I really felt the need to have children of my own. The whole adoption process is long and quite intrusive, but I wouldn't want that to put anyone off.

"We came up against some barriers due to the fact we're a gay couple, which came as quite a shock, but in the end we took on two boys and they settled really quickly. It's been an amazing journey for all of us."

FACT FILE

Adoption in Kent

- On average 100 children are adopted in Kent each year.
- In 2008, KCC placed 90 per cent of children with a plan for adoption within 12 months of the placement order being given by the court.
- In Kent, 1,350 children who have been adopted since 1992, a third of these receive an ongoing service from KCC's adoption support and special guardianship team.
- There are more than 800 contact arrangements with birth parents and their children who have been placed for adoption. KCC promotes working in partnership with birth parents and new adoptive families to encourage contact.
- On average, 60 new adopters are assessed and approved each year. Assessment takes eight months and is extremely rigorous. Prospective adopters need to have demonstrated they have dealt with their own life issues before they can be considered.

Ali said keeping the boys together was very important: "We found out they were originally going to be split up so they would be adopted immediately," she said.

Toby Anstis

"It was so much better for them to stay together. One of the boys was slightly chaotic when he came to us and splitting them up would have made it worse. They still have memories of their mother which they talk about and they really need that."

Heart FM DJ Toby Anstis, can relate to Ali's story having been adopted with his twin sister as a child. "I can't imagine life without my sister Kate," he said. "We've had such a close bond since birth. Fortunately we were kept together when we were adopted. It's a special bond and understanding that has helped us come to terms with being adopted. It's so important that siblings are kept together."

Cllr Sarah Hohler, Kent County Council's cabinet member for children, families and education, said the team at KCC are on hand to talk people through the process of adoption.

"It is difficult to put into words the difference adoptive parents can make to the lives of children and young people," she said. "Similarly, those who adopt find having a family to be an enriching experience."

Call the KCC adoption team on 0845 330 2968 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/adoption.

Laying down the law

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

LOCAL authorities throughout Kent should combine their legal teams to give taxpayers better value for money, claims County Hall's expert in the field.

Geoff Wild is the director of law and governance at Kent Legal Services, which currently serves about 200 public sector clients and pumps more than £1.5 million per year back into libraries, schools and other county council-run projects.

In less than a decade Mr Wild has helped turn KCC's tiny legal department into a profitable, self-funding company, attracting some of the world's best solicitors, and he told KOS Media that merging with teams from other local authorities was the next step.

He said: "Ideally we want to see a Kent-wide legal service for the county because at the moment we have KCC, Medway Council and 12 district councils all running their own legal teams when there's no need.

"What we need to do is get together and collaborate and have a central body that caters for the needs of all, and I think budgetary pressures are such that everyone is going to have to consider it.

"Not all the councils are welcoming it because they want to protect their own services, but the barriers are going to have to come down in the future."

Although Legal Services is part of KCC, it does not receive an annual budget from the council and must instead generate its own funds. This means KCC must still pay for the legal advice it receives, albeit at a rate of about £60 per hour as opposed to the average £200 per hour quoted by London firms.

This, says Mr Wild, provides taxpayers with good value for money because the council then saves millions to spend on other areas.

The profit made by Legal Services is also pumped back into the authority every year.

To ensure the service remains competitive against firms in the private sector, it employs some of the best solicitors and barristers from across the globe.

A total of 17 languages – including Afrikaans, Cantonese, Samoan and Urdu – are spoken by a staff of about 80, of which about 60 per cent are female.

Mr Wild said: "The mix of people is something I take a lot of pride in, and not because I'm on some sort of political correctness mission to have a rainbow culture.

"It's simply that the best lawyers out there have varying backgrounds and experiences behind them.

"If we only employed white, middle-aged men from Middle England then we would have a very two-dimensional workforce with a static view of the world.

"By bringing in people who have worked in every continent, we can bring richness and diversity and something other than pure law."

LEGAL EAGLE: Geoff Wild has high hopes for improving county council law services

Mr Wild said one such employee – Pak Tim Fung – was currently working with Chinese investors to try to convince them to bring their businesses to Kent.

He added that the Legal Services team had also had a large part to play in some of the county's biggest developments and innovations: "From Bluewater to the Turner Contemporary and the Fast Track bus service in Dartford, we have touched virtually every part of Kent. We are invisible of course, but without us none of this would have happened."

THE MAGIC OF BEING CLOSE TO BIG CATS

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Walk in peace

TEMPORARY calm has broken out between landowners and ramblers over new legislation giving walkers virtually free reign to go anywhere, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Kent Ramblers are celebrating as the Marine and Coastal Access Bill becomes law.

They said it opens up the entire South East coastline, including Kent, permanently to the public for the first time. But a group representing the people who actually own the land say they too have won a victory, despite failing to stop the bill going through.

The Country Land and Business Association is furious the ramblers were given permission to traipse all over land that didn't belong to them.

The historic bill gained Royal Assent on Thursday and will create a 570-mile path round the South East coast, enabling the public to walk unobstructed from Gravesend to Lymington for the first time.

Robert Peel, area secretary of the Kent Ramblers said: "This follows decades of campaigning by Britain's walking charity, the Ramblers.

"Currently nearly 50 per cent of the English coast has no public right of way, and the public can only walk an average 1.9 miles on the coast on a 'secure or satisfactory path'."

He said the South East will see huge improvements to coastal access and a vital boost to the rural economy thanks to the landmark bill.

Tom Franklin, head of the Ramblers, added: "The passing into law of this historic bill will mark a victory for everyone who walks in this island nation.

"The Marine and Coastal Access Act will enshrine a very simple principle on the statute books – that everyone, no matter who they are, where they come from or how much money they have has the right to visit all parts of the coast which is so much a part of our heritage."

He went on: "The Government deserves genuine congratulations for having introduced the bill. What is now needed is a continued commitment to deliver access on the ground so people have a chance to enjoy the coast."

But the CLA said it has only happened after it secured a major change to the original proposals.

It said the bill entered the House of Lords on the final straight of its Parliamentary run with major concessions won by the CLA.

While opposing the coastal access part of the bill, the CLA has achieved amendments giving coastal landowners a vital right of appeal, they said.

CLA President Henry Aubrey-Fletcher said: "We have fought hard for the rights of landowners potentially affected by this proposed bill and won in several major areas.

"Highly successful CLA lobbying has led to the right of appeal and private parks and gardens being excluded from the bill.

"We have always been against the bill in principle, but at least the Government has conceded in some areas.

"However, it still remains to be seen just how the implementation of the path will impact on coastal businesses."

He added: "The CLA will, of course, be active in advising landowners during the implementation process."

The new law has also been welcomed by the RSPB as a way of safeguarding wildlife both above and below the waves.

It said the legislation must be used to create a network of marine conservation zones offering protection for important and vulnerable marine species.

It said two of the 21 sites of national importance are in Kent. They are Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs, for fulmar and kittiwake, plus the area around Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay for black-headed gull and cormorant.

Kittiwake numbers have declined by 36 per cent since the start of the millennium.

Dr Sharon Thompson, senior RSPB marine policy officer, said: "This Act is a watershed for marine conservation.

"But, for the Act to be meaningful and help safeguard vulnerable marine species, from corals to whales, the Government must use these new powers to designate sites, otherwise the legislation will be as toothless as a sea squirt."

Figurehead for university

WORLD-famous fashion designer Zandra Rhodes has been named as chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts.

Rhodes, who was born in Chatham, studied at one of the university's founder colleges, Medway College of Art.

She said: "The caring, dedicated staff guided and nurtured me. My mother also taught at the college.

"I learned the skills that have carried me through the rest of my life and career: drawing, sketching, lithography, screen printing, linocutting, all the basics."

As chancellor, Rhodes will act as the figurehead for the university which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester.

Labrador-sized cat spotted

A BIG cat has been reported in Walmer.

A woman and her father-in-law said they saw a Labrador-sized cat run across Ellens Road, about 3ft from their car and into the bushes.

She said: "We picked up the eye-reflection first and saw the length of the tail, then it was gone."

Neil Arnold, a big-cat expert, says Walmer is a hot-spot for large cats, with recent sightings in St Margaret's, Sholden, Ripple and Great Mongeham.

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NETWORK Rail is to spend £10 million on improvements to Maidstone East station. The operator unveiled a £3.25 billion funding package on Thursday that will benefit more than 2,000 stations between now and 2014. Works could include new toilets and waiting rooms, new and longer platforms and bigger ticket offices. A spokesman said: "Stations are our shop front and have been ignored for too long. They are now the top of the list."

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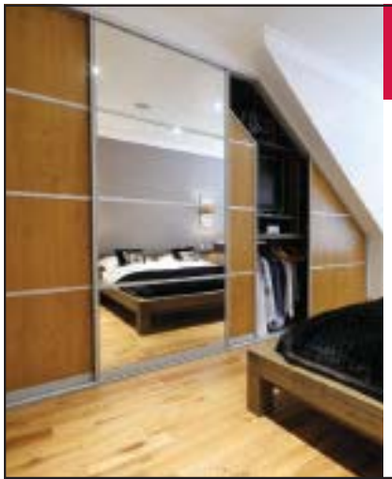

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Breast cancer micro-bubbles breakthrough

A LEADING radiologist behind a revolutionary new method that uses tiny bubbles to detect cancer has revealed how he was one step away from calling off the study.

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Dr Ali Sever, of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, told this newspaper how failed attempts – while trying to see whether breast cancer patients could avoid repeat surgery if the disease had spread – led him to suspect the technique might never work.

But in a final test, the team behind the research found that micro-bubbles could be used to detect cancer in the sentinel lymph node – the first to be affected by the disease.

Dr Sever said: "We had been working on the project since 2006 and with one of the final tests I thought we had failed altogether.

"I had injected the patient twice and was about to say it looked like it wouldn't ever work, but the third injection revealed that it could."

The procedure – a world first – sees micro-bubbles injected in a tiny amount of fluid into a patient's breast.

The bubbles travel to the sentinel lymph node and are detected using ultrasound before a biopsy is performed to see if the node is cancerous. Usually while undergoing surgery for breast cancer, surgeons recommend women allow them to remove the sentinel lymph node so they can test it for cancer. If it is found to be cancerous, the patient must undergo another operation to remove all remaining glands in the armpit. But with the new micro-bubble procedure, the node can be located and tested without surgery and if it is cancerous can be removed at the same time as the main operation.

Dr Sever said: "One operation is traumatic enough for patients, let alone another after they have already had surgery."

The micro-bubble study at Maidstone Hospital, published in the British Journal of Surgery, has led to calls for Dr Sever to talk at conferences worldwide.

He said: "Micro-bubbles have been used for years by cardiologists, but had never been injected into the skin before.

"It took eight months to get permission to use micro-bubbles for this purpose and for the study to go ahead. Now this has been done and the results published, other hospitals can do so without having to go through the process we did."

Dr Sever said for 18 months he and his team were uncertain as to whether the injections would work.

"We didn't get any successful results, so I went to Switzerland to see the micro-bubbles being used in experiments and realised we didn't have the correct settings for the injections. I came back and adjusted the settings, but the first and second injections didn't work. This was when I almost said it wouldn't work, but the third one showed us it could."

Dr Sever's team are thrilled with the development, which will save thousands of women from undergoing unnecessary surgery.

Sue Jones, consultant breast and oncoplastic surgeon at the trust, said: "Telling women who have undergone surgery that they need another operation because the cancer has spread to the sentinel lymph node is the worst news they can hear, a real emotional setback.

"While still traumatic, patients seem to deal with the news much better if they find out before the operation that the lymph glands have cancer in them."

Botched reconstructive surgery leads to £62,000 compensation

A FORMER cancer patient has received £62,000 in compensation after suffering botched surgery during three breast reconstruction operations.

Pauline Gevaux, from River, near Dover, won her claim against the East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, which led to consultant surgeon David Jackson suspended by the General Medical Council.

The 45-year-old said: "I'm so happy that this horrific chapter of my life has come to an end and that my case has settled."

Mrs Gevaux's ordeal started in 2002 when she was diagnosed with cancer in her right breast. She had a complete mastectomy, followed by chemotherapy and a year later underwent surgery to have her left breast removed to prevent the possibility of developing cancer there.

She was then referred to Mr Jackson at Kent and Canterbury Hospital for reconstructive surgery. Using a skin flap from her abdomen, Mr Jackson created new breasts, but Mrs Gevaux found the appearance of them "horrific".

She claimed her breasts were neither the same size nor shape and the stitching was "crude".

It was later alleged the technique Mr Jackson had used was years out of date. In 2004, the surgeon agreed to insert a small implant into her right breast to even them up, but Mrs Gevaux said the outcome was unsatisfactory. The next year, still under the care of Mr Jackson, Mrs Gevaux was admitted to the QEQM Hospital in Margate and tissue was taken out of her left breast. Shortly after being discharged, she said she experienced intense pain and a ripping sensation in her abdomen.

Pauline Gevaux

In November 2006, Mrs Gevaux was referred to plastic surgeon Anita Hazari at East Grinstead Hospital and two further operations took place to perform 'scar revision' and replace her right breast implant.

A third operation then took place where material was transferred from her hips to her breast, her abdominal flap was corrected and a muscle transfer procedure to reduce restriction under her right armpit was carried out. Medical tattoo work to cover scars on her nipples was carried out by specialist Helen Porter.

A report into the case by a plastic surgery expert stated: "Had the original operation [by Mr Jackson] been performed competently then one further operation [two in all] would have dealt with the breast asymmetry."

Mrs Gevaux said: "My primary reason for bringing the claim was to expose the extent that I was let down by both a single surgeon and the local NHS in the hope that it would prevent anyone else from suffering in the same way. I can now look forward to the future."

Students get chance to devise new gaming hit

MEGA HIT: Lara Croft has been among the most successful computer games

By CHRIS MURPHY

PRODUCING a pixel perfect video entertainment title is not all fun and games, but the rewards can be measured in the millions when you get it right.

And a new course in Kent is offering students the chance to cash in on the boom in video games.

The exploits of Lara Croft really set the ball rolling all those years ago, and this week saw the release of the controversial new Call of Duty game, this year's most anticipated title which is set to sell sensationally well.

Profits for the company behind it, Activision Blizzard, are expected to be in the hundreds of millions on the back of the violent first-person shoot 'em up game, and the company's other big title Guitar Hero.

Call of Duty was this week due to rake in half a billion dollars.

Now North West Kent College in Dartford wants students to get in on the act and maybe make some big money for themselves.

The School of Computing has so far enrolled 18 students to its OCR Diploma in iMedia.

It is a one-year, full-time course that teaches students how to use the standard software for 2D and 3D graphics, video editing, and 3D games design and modelling.

Students wanting to join need to already have an expertise in computers, plus at least three GCSEs at Grades A*-C.

As well as developing their own games, the course provides students with the opportunity to work in the games industry or progress to higher education.

The course includes visits to games fairs to provide both business and pleasure.

As with all facets of the entertainment industry, just coming up with the idea for something new can launch a career and send it skywards faster than Lara can pull out her weapons.

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Be entertained by the toe tapping 'Winter Wonderland' Christmas show, from 11am – 3pm, outside Costa Coffee.

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Child abuse fears 'may bring society to a total standstill'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

EXPERT: Theresa Gannon

AN EXPERT on female sex offenders has warned against parents becoming "hyper-vigilant" in response to recent high-profile child abuse cases.

Dr Theresa Gannon – senior lecturer in forensic psychology at the University of Kent – says society risks coming to a standstill if people become so cautious they feel unable to trust anybody with their children.

Her comments follow the recent conviction of nursery worker Vanessa George, and revelations from ChildLine that the number of calls received about female abusers had shot up by 132 per cent in four years.

Dr Gannon said: "I think it's hard for most people in society, including professionals in the field, to understand why women sexually abuse children. It comes down to the preconceived beliefs about how women can behave, like they can't do awful things whereas men always do.

"They are seen as the nurturers of children and the gender that looks after them, so when that is contravened it's difficult for society to accept. In the past there have been some cases where children have tried to tell someone they've been sexually abused by a woman only to be told it couldn't possibly have happened.

"I think these high-profile cases do highlight the need to watch out for people regardless of gender, but what we don't want to get into is a situation where both males and females are vilified, because hyper-vigilancy like that would bring society to a standstill."

The ChildLine figures released this week show that of 16,094 children who called the charity last year, 2,142 told of abuse by a woman.

Men still account for the majority of child abuse claims, but the NSPCC said female sex abuse was under-reported.

A contributor of many important publications about sex offenders, Dr Gannon recently interviewed 22 female paedophiles to try to understand how and why they abuse children.

She said: "We found that although females hold some key similarities to male sexual abusers, there are also some key differences. For instance, more than half of the women I spoke to worked in unison with a male offender. You rarely have men working with other men in this way.

"That was interesting because people think that if you leave a child with a male you should be extra vigilant, but less so if there is also a woman present. Obviously having a woman there does not necessarily mean a child is safe, so it's just about being aware.

"Knowing these key differences is crucial for raising public awareness of female-perpetrated sexual abuse so it can be reported to the appropriate authorities."

A recent high-profile woman offender was Vanessa George who, along with two co-defendants, abused up to 30 babies and toddlers at a nursery in Plymouth, and is due to be sentenced on December 15.

The 39-year-old initially refused to give the names of the youngsters involved, but has since passed some on to detectives.

Dr Gannon said: "It was totally up to the women who took part in my interviews whether they wanted to speak to me or not, but a lot of them just wanted to tell someone their story.

"A lot were in denial, others blamed it on a male who was also involved and others agreed that they had committed an awful crime."

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Town pays tribute to those killed in wartime accident

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A MEMORIAL stone dedicated to those killed in an aeroplane accident during World War Two was unveiled at a service in Dartford.

On July 30, 1941, a British pilot lost control of his Hampden Bomber during a lightning storm and crashed into a row of houses in the East Hill area of the town.

While he survived the accident, the three remaining crew members and three civilians were killed.

Generation

Former and serving RAF personnel were among those who attended a remembrance service for the dead on Tuesday, when a memorial plaque was unveiled near the site of the accident.

Dartford Borough Council leader Cllr Jeremy Kite said the authority had been working with the Shoreham Aircraft Museum's RAF Memorials Project to remember those who had lost their lives in accidents throughout the borough.

He said: "It was a fantastic service and one that brought home the risk to people on the Home Front.

"It wasn't just the Armed Forces who were at risk, because there were civilians on the ground who were killed too. Kids from the local school attended the service as well, which was good because connecting with the younger generation is something we feel quite strongly about.

"The younger you are, the greater the distance there is between yourself and the people who fought in the war.

"But I think it's important children know what happened so they can put a perspective on what is happening in the world right now.

"It's very important the Armed Forces feel the population back home understands what they are doing, regardless of the politics and the ins and outs of it all."

The pilot of the Hampden Bomber that crashed was Sergeant Baker, who survived when the aircraft destroyed numbers 65 to 69 East Hill, Dartford, either by the direct hit or by fire spreading.

Proud

Flt Sgt Roy Geater, Sgt William Chambers and Sgt Wilfred Butler were all killed in the accident, along with civilians Frederick and Beatrice Vickery, and Alice Yates.

Despite his lucky escape on this occasion, Sgt Baker tragically died nine days later when another Hampden he was travelling in disappeared without trace during a raid on Kiel in northern Germany.

When asked why it had taken 68 years for a memorial to be put in place, Cllr Kite said: "I think it was waiting for someone who felt strongly enough about it to come along and do it.

"There were so many of these types of incidents throughout Kent that you couldn't mark all of them, but we do need to bring more alive for people and I'm very proud that we have here."

A PERMANENT REMINDER: The memorial

Puppies abandoned

TWO puppies in a terrible condition have been found dumped in a cardboard box.

The six-week-old pups were discovered by a dog walker at the entrance to a field in Chart Sutton, Maidstone, on Tuesday.

The RSPCA was called and took the mistreated dogs to a nearby vet for treatment.

The Jack Russell terrier-type cross-breed puppies had overgrown nails and have suffered fur loss. They were taken to the RSPCA Patcham animal centre where they will be kept until a new home is found for them.

This latest incident comes after eight dead puppies were found dumped in hedgerow in Wrotham Heath last week.

Quo will rock castle

VETERAN rockers Status Quo have been unveiled as the opening act of next year's Rochester Castle Concerts.

The rock legends, famed for hits such as Down Down, Rockin' All Over The World and Whatever You Want, will kick-start the four-night programme on Wednesday, July 14.

The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will once again perform on the closing Castle Proms night. Tickets for both nights go on sale on Wednesday.

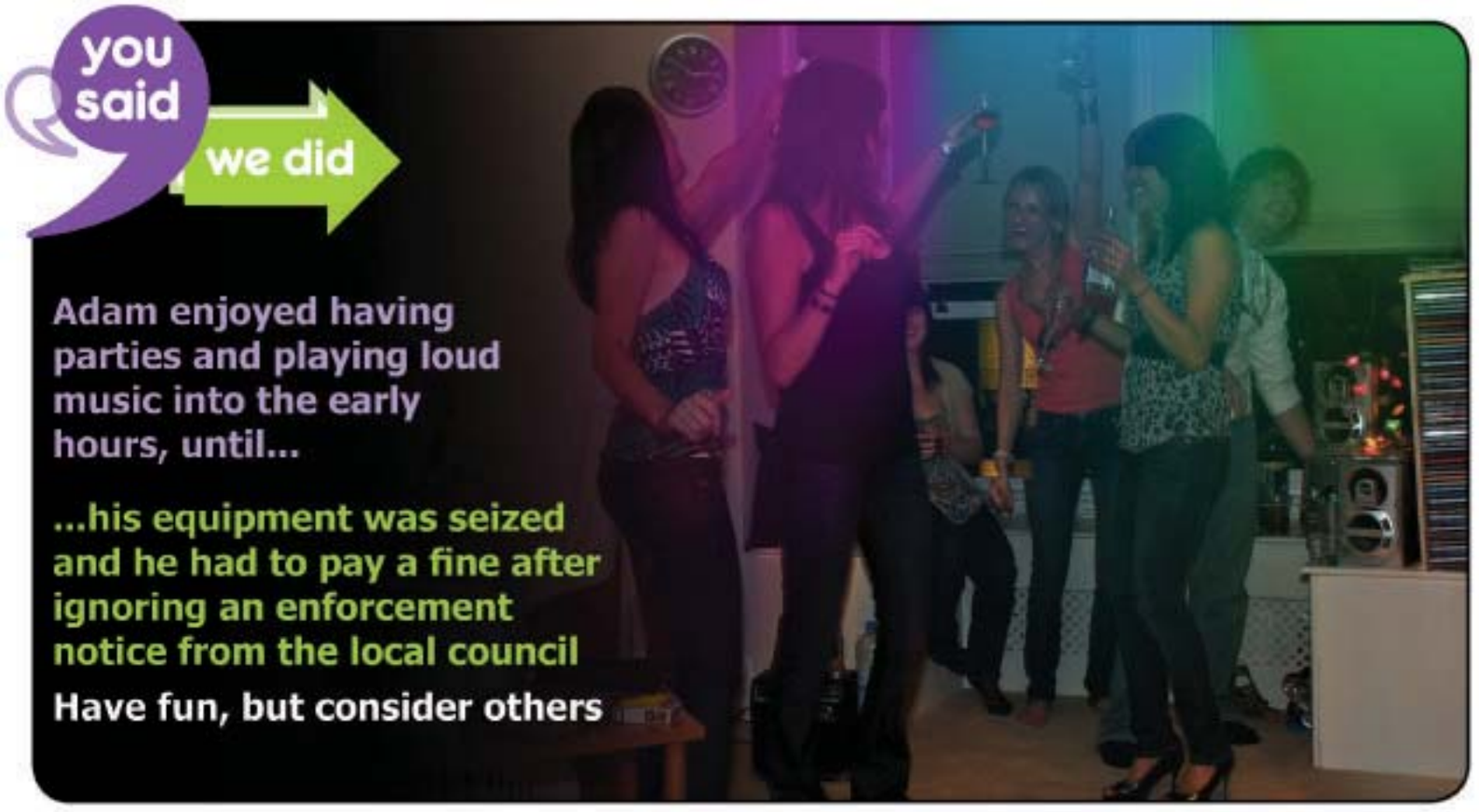
Concert planners will announce the final two acts in the New Year.

Flushed with joy

THREE sets of public toilets in Gravesham have been scooped top marks in the Loo of the Year awards.

Facilities in Parrock Street, Clive Road and on the Promenade were commended with five stars in the national competition.

A spokesman from Gravesham Borough Council said: "We are delighted with the awards which reflect the large number of compliments our staff who look after the loos receive from the public."



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End for foreign exchange visits?

A GOVERNMENT scheme forcing host families in Kent to sign a register aimed at protecting foreign exchange students from child abuse could spell the end of the age-old tradition.

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

This is according to MPs and headteachers in the county who fear the stringent new rules will kill off school exchange programmes altogether, as parents back away from the intrusive checks.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is bringing in the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) to ensure parents are registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) before taking on foreign students.

But ministers are also pushing schools to obtain Criminal Records Bureau checks, despite there being no reported cases of child abuse resulting from an exchange trip.

Former schools minister Michael Fallon says the "intrusive" system – which will be in place by November next year – could lead to less families taking part.

The Tory MP for Sevenoaks told KOS Media the strict rules would deter some parents, meaning their children would miss out on a return exchange visit.

"This will only make us more insular," he said. "I think the Government should rethink these plans especially as there is no evidence of problems happening in the past.

"It will certainly deter families from taking part in the schools exchange programme.

"This could result in the loss of a number of exchange trips where families won't want to take part because of the intrusive checks."

Rose Coldwell, headteacher of Clarendon House Grammar School in Ramsgate – which was granted specialist language school status in 2004 – agreed the policy will have a detrimental effect on the exchange system.

Safety

"It will kill it completely," she said.

"I've been teaching for 30 years and I've never heard of a case of child abuse linked with foreign exchange trips.

"Schools know what's going on with their students, and the parents and would never put a child at risk. The safety of children is paramount, but I don't think this new system needs to be brought in."

Mrs Coldwell said students benefit from the exchange trips, not only in learning other languages but by making lifelong friends.

"My son is 31-years-old and he is still in contact with the exchange student he met when he was 14," she said.

"When students go abroad they get a good chance to improve their language skills too.

"It will be a shame if this ends."

A spokesman from the Department for Children, Schools and Families confirmed the new Vetting and Barring Scheme will come into effect by November, 2010.

He said: "In a household where there are two parents we would expect both to be ISA registered.

"Because families involved in school exchanges are often unpaid, they will be classed as volunteers and will be able to register with the ISA free of charge.

"We recommend schools also obtain Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks because the ISA registration would only indicate if a person is barred, it would not indicate the criminal history of a person."

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Rare moth find of global importance

A RARE moth has been discovered in the county.

The straw belle moth is already on the endangered list, so the discovery made at the National Trust beauty spot of Wrotham Water Farm is of global importance.

The Farm, near Trottiscliffe, has also revealed itself to be the home of other rare species, according to a new report.

Inspections by the Butterfly Conservation Trust revealed the presence of several species of rare orchids, bumble bees and butterflies.

The straw belle moth has been designated a priority species for conservation, meaning extra care must be taken in preserving its habitat to ensure its continued survival.

The area was used to grow wheat and barley, but in 1990 the fields of Wrotham Water Farm were 'returned to nature'.

Under the guidance of the Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the National Trust was able to restore the chalk grassland by planting a rare grass seed mix and introducing a grazing regime to help the moth and other endangered wildlife thrive.

The straw belle moth

Picture: MARK PARSONS

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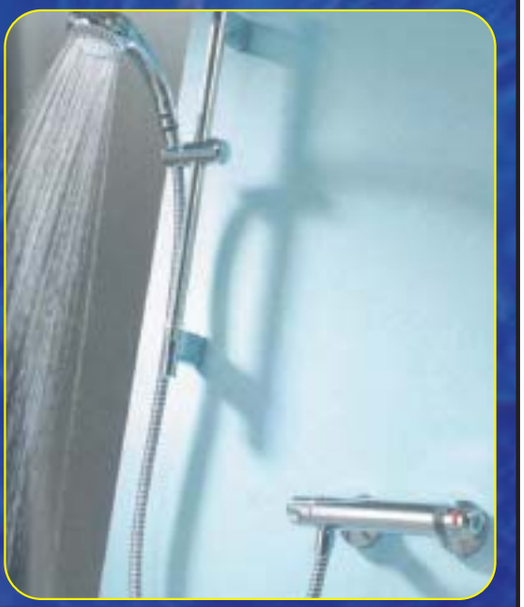

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No truck with thieves

Police in call for heavy plant vehicles to be made secure in bid to prevent smash and grab raids on cash machines

ONE of Kent's most senior officers is urging owners of heavy plant to keep it more secure and bring an end to a string of thefts of cash machines, ***writes Chris Murphy.***

Det Insp Eddie Fox is from the Organised Crime Unit, he said: "Just like the safe-cracker with his stethoscope and crowbar, these gangs have a kit they use in the theft of ATMs.

"They need a flat-bed truck, a fast four-wheel drive vehicle and something like a JCB digger to wrench the machines from their base and load them on to the lorries.

"I would urge the people of Kent who happen to be out late at night or early in the morning to report seeing a piece of heavy machinery looking out of place in a field.

"The gangs drive them over fields to reach their targets. There is usually no reason for something like a JCB to be driven about at night, especially across fields.

"If anyone sees something suspicious call 999 immediately. It costs no more than the price of a phone call and it's better to be wrong than risk an offence being committed."

Immobiliser

The force is now working with the construction, farming, insurance, security and transport industries, as well as the public, to reduce the theft of heavy machinery.

In 2007, around 700 heavy vehicles were stolen, up six per cent on the previous year. Many were used in the theft of ATMs.

Kent police said it needs a major offensive to stop gangs stealing the valuable equipment from building sites, farms and lay-bys.

DI Fox said: "In a couple of attacks, the building itself has been made unstable and with residential accommodation upstairs, it is putting lives at risk."

Heavy machinery stolen includes excavators, forklift trucks, grass cutters, tractors, generators, cement mixers and road breakers.

A single piece of equipment can cost as much as £300,000. Gangs target what they see as a lucrative source of cash or else use the stolen machinery to break into cash machines.

DI Fox said: "Of course not all are used in further crime, and can be sold on at massive discounts, often to other companies sometimes oblivious they have been stolen.

"I ask owners of this sort of plant to make them harder to steal. Take the battery out, fit an immobiliser, anything that will slow a thief down, plus security mark the vehicles.

"Most heavy equipment is easy to steal but it's also easy to disable them at the end of the working day so I urge owners to take this precaution. All it costs is time.

"I see the effects of crime on individuals and the community. It traumatises people and costs time, money and effort to investigate. People who steal heavy machinery and break into cash machines leave damage and chaos in their wake.

"They don't have any regard for anyone who gets in the way of their greed. But very often there are a few basic things that people can do to reduce or prevent this from happening."

Five men were recently jailed for more than 20 years for their role in the theft of 25 cash machines, or attempted thefts of cash machines, and 10 vehicle thefts.

CARNAGE: The damage left after a gang of ram-raiders targeted an ATM in Longfield

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Success of Rochester castle film is Ironclad

THE gut-wrenching violence used in the open scene of Saving Private Ryan is being transferred to another movie – about the siege of Rochester castle.

And instead of Nazi machine guns cutting down hapless US infantrymen, this is steel on steel, up close and personal.

Ironclad is being shot not in Rochester where the castle actually stands, but in the wilds of Wales.

The imposing walls and battlements have been recreated on a Welsh coal tip for the filming of the medieval action movie.

Rochester is a tad too modern for the filmmakers now a thriving city grown up around it, making the area a little different than the time when it came under siege in 1215.

And the set designers and builders have done a pretty good job with the wood, metal and plastic looking completely authentic – from a distance.

The producer said he wanted to make the film as historically accurate as possible, designed to recreate the siege and make the viewer experience a medieval battle in action.

With a budget of £12 million, it is set to become the most expensive independent movie shot in the UK.

The cast includes Kate Mara, Brian Cox, Paul Giamatti, James Purefoy, Derek Jacobi and Mackenzie Crook, along with Rhys Parry Jones and Jamie Foreman. Bob Hoskins, Robert Carlyle and Richard Attenborough are also tipped to make appearances, but are not confirmed yet.

Producer Rick Benattar said: "There is a gritty script based on one of the bloodiest battles in world history.

"We hope to bring a sense of kinetic energy, which will make the viewer feel as if they are right in the thick of it, to the screen and with our amazing cast we feel that the film will truly be spectacular."

Ironclad will hit the screens next year.

Kent Highway Services

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **64**

ADAPTATION: Charles Dickens' tale about Scrooge has been made into a new film

Nothing stingy about Scrooge's film budget

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ANOTHER year, another yuletide, and another remake of the classic Charles Dickens epic, A Christmas Carol.

The Muppets have had a go, as had the headmistress of St Trinian's, and now God is playing skinflint Scrooge, who eventually sees the error of his penny-pinching ways.

Well, God as in Jim Carrey, who played the Almighty in another crazy film.

This time, A Christmas Carol has been created in a new style of animation, giving it a new twist, and allowing Carrey to pull even more wacky faces.

A Christmas Carol was penned by Dickens in 1843. Well, churned out in a matter of weeks according to legend, and was the first and by far the most famous Christmas book from the writer, who spent much of his life in Kent. He died at his home at Gad's Hill Place, Higham, in 1870 aged 58, and had also lived in Rochester.

This new film was shot by director Robert Zemeckis using a groundbreaking 3D motion system where Carrey gets to play Scrooge, as well as the three ghosts.

The film, which also stars the voices of British actors Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, and Bob Hoskins, took a huge $31 million on its opening weekend in America.

Carrey said: "There were a lot of challenging aspects to the film, but once I got into it I found the process worked well and Bob (Zemeckis) made things very easy for me."

He said the British accents were difficult. "There are regional accents which are hard. I had a voice coach to help me – but I am still waiting for the response from the UK."

He had help with the voices from another star in the film, Cary Elwes, the great, great, great, great nephew of John Elwes, an MP who Dickens used for the Scrooge character.

Carrey said: "He was actually the template for the character. He was so cheap and mean that he would wear the same clothes all the time even when they were in tatters, he wore a wig that he found in the garbage and he wouldn't buy new game until he had eaten all the meat he had, even if it was rancid he would finish it. This was the man Dickens based Scrooge on."

The actor added: "It has always been a story that allows us to refocus on the important things in life, where the joy is."

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Plea for divers to stop robbing grave

DIVERS are being warned to treat a wrecked ship where 75 crewmen died with utmost respect, especially as it is an official war grave.

What's left of HMS Ghurka lies on the seabed off Dungeness. It sank on February 8, 1917, and has been subjected to repeated dives, with items being taken and sold to secondhand stores and souvenir shops.

One magazine has even gone so far as listing it as 76 in its Top 100 Best Wreck Dives. Divernet.com refused to talk to KOS Media, but it did say on its website: "Divers should remember that the heavy loss of life makes this a war grave."

And holiday-diver.com also warns divers to stay out of the wreck: "Divers will no longer be allowed to penetrate" the Ghurka.

In fact last year the Ministry of Defence finally agreed with campaigners like Christopher Conn, of Folkestone.

The wartime wreck researcher said: "It leaves me with a sick feeling knowing these divers were down there robbing the remains of these brave seamen... It shows no respect. They seem to not care about what happened to these men trying to protect our country."

HMS Ghurka was a 880-ton Tribal Class torpedo boat destroyer built in 1907. She was 255ft by 25ft and was powered using steam turbine engines.

She sank after hitting a German mine off Dungeness, going down almost immediately with only five crew saved.

The divernet.com magazine even points out the wreck has been professionally salvaged, with use of explosives. But parts of the stern are still intact and stand eight metres proud above the wreckage.

But Mr Conn said: "Many of the crew died in the explosion, others drowned before help could arrive. [They] found five men alive, and covered in oil.

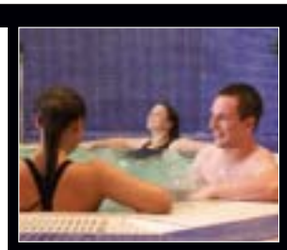
"The Ghurka dead did not have the likes of Joanna Lumley fighting for their remains to be left to rest in peace."

He said in May last year, the MoD granted the destroyer war grave status which means it now comes under the Protection of Military Remains Act of 1986.

Mr Conn said: "The Ghurka war dead are just a few of the many naval personnel lost at sea along the Kent coastline whose remains should be shown the respect shown to the British Army and Battle of Britain dead."

The War Grave designation means that as a protected place, the site can be visited on a 'look but don't touch or enter' basis.

HMS Ghurka



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Honouring our Gurkha heroes

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IN A moving ceremony, the families of two Gurkha soldiers killed in Afghanistan have received bravery medals awarded to their lost loved ones.

The handing over of the awards this week happened as the rest of Foxtrot Company of the Royal Gurkha Rifles received their Operational Service Medals following their recent deployment in Afghanistan.

Around 80 members of the company, which is made up of soldiers from the 1st and 2nd Battalions received their medals at a ceremony at Sir John Moore Barracks in Folkestone.

The families of those who died were given Elizabeth Crosses and accompanying scrolls.

These were presented to the relatives of two of the comrades who died in the conflict.

Gruelling

They were Colour Sergeant Krishna Dura, 36, who was killed in an explosion in November last year, and Corporal Kumar Pun, who was part of Foxtrot Company and killed in May by a suicide bomber.

The MoD said 31-year-old Corp Pun died during a patrol in Gereshk, Helmand Province, in an attack which also claimed the life of a Royal Military police sergeant.

The MoD said the Nepal-born soldier was the son of a British Gurkha, so he was always destined to try to join one of the most feared Regiments in the world, and in 1996 passed the gruelling selection for the British Army.

He was posted to Church Crookham as a Rifleman in A (Delhi) Company the 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, with whom he served in Malaysia, Kenya, Oman, Belize, Kosovo, Brunei and Bosnia. This was his first deployment to Afghanistan, where he was delivering vital training and mentoring to the Afghan National Police.

Colour Sergeant Dura was a Nepalese Gurkha with 16 years of military experience who died after his patrol came under a bomb attack. He was in a Warrior armoured vehicle at the time in the Musa Qala District of Helmand Province.

He came from the Lamjung district of western Nepal and enlisted into the British Army in 1992. He trained in Hong Kong and went on to serve with the 7th Gurkha Rifles in Church Crookham in the UK.

He had previously served in Bosnia Herzegovina, East Timor and Sierra Leone and was on his third tour of Afghanistan at the time of his death. He had recently been promoted and was leading a sniper platoon.

His commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Chris Darby said: "Colour Sergeant Krishna was an exceptional soldier, a gifted leader."

The medals were presented by Major General Lamont Kirkland CBE, watched by friends and family of the regiment and fellow serving Gurkhas. The Queen's Truncheon, equivalent to the regimental colours, was paraded.

Foxtrot Company returned from Afghanistan two weeks ago where they had been engaged in helping to mentor the Afghan National Police.

Major Chris Conroy, their commanding officer, said: "It was a tough but rewarding deployment in which tragically our colleague Corporal Kumar Pun was killed, but the boys did an outstanding job out there under very difficult circumstances and can be justly proud of themselves today.

"We feel we have made a difference and there has been a genuine and marked improvement in the Afghan National Police."

RECOGNITION: A ceremony was held to present medals to the familes of two dead Gurkha soldiers and to Foxtrot Company

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EDUCATION: Luther Blissett wants children to learn about racism

Red card for racism

FOOTBALL veteran Luther Blissett is calling on Kent children to help tackle racism.

The Jamaica-born former England striker is one of several ex-professionals promoting the Show Racism the Red Card charity, which last week celebrated the opening of an office for London and the South East.

Blissett – who scored more than 200 goals in a career spanning 20 years – told KOS Media the children targeted by the campaign could teach their parents a thing or two about respect: "If you can get through to youngsters and make them aware of why racism is unacceptable then you have a chance of doing something about it as they will question racism.

"Children are not born prejudiced. They pick it up from their parents or whoever they are associated with."

Watford legend Blissett, 51, made history in 1982 when he became the first black player to score a hat-trick for England, on his debut against Luxembourg.

However, not all of the ex-AC Milan forward's matches were so enjoyable, as his career coincided with the dark days of English football when crowd violence and racism was rife.

Established in Whitley Bay, near Newcastle, in 1996, Show Racism the Red Card harnesses the high profiles of professional footballers – including former Gillingham defender Efe Sodje – to combat racism in society.

The charity's new London office will enable its staff to forge closer links with clubs like the Gills, as well as the hundreds of schools in Kent and Medway.

Chief executive Ged Grebby said: "The BNP is just the tip of the iceberg of the problem, but I think it shows racism is not just football's problem."

WIN a stylish jacket for him (but you can borrow it too)

WHY not break with tradition and give the man in your life a unique present this Christmas?

A classic Harris Tweed sports jacket fits the bill. The iconic fabric is still woven by hand on the Western Isles of Scotland and is the only brand in the world protected by an Act of Parliament.

Supply is limited as there are now less than 94 handloom weavers left on the islands.

Each and every jacket is woven from 100 per cent pure new wool and can contain up to 20 different colours to give the unique Harris Tweed appearance.

Many celebrities over the years have worn the Harris Tweed fabric, including the British Royal family, actors such as Clint Eastwood in Dirty Harry, and the super sleuth Sherlock Holmes.

Even the famous mountaineer George Mallory, who died on Everest in 1924 wore Harris Tweed. In fact, his body was identified in 1999 by the famous ORB trademark in his Harris Tweed jacket.

For more information about these popular, iconic jackets see www.harristweedscotland.com.

Harris Tweed Scotland is offering two lucky winners a Harris Tweed sports jacket in one of four colours: Barva (brown barley corn tweed), Dalmore (blue barley corn tweed), Taransay (green window pane) and Laxdale (black and white herringbone).

Simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Harris Tweed Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is December 5, 2009.

Question: Which famous British fictional sleuth wore Harris Tweed?

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27th December Sunday	10am – 5pm*
28th – 30th December Monday – Wednesday	10am – 10pm
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* Larger stores open for browsing prior to 11am

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Food for Kent has now launched its tasty Christmas range of top quality local food and drink.

Stock up now for a fantastic festive feast, with a selection of meats, from traditional turkey and goose, to gammon and ham, stuffing, to mince pies and seasonal nuts for the ultimate Christmas snack.

Christmas orders will be delivered between December 21 and 24, meaning you get the freshness of local produce with none of the stress of Christmas shopping queues.

To celebrate the new selection, Food for Kent is offering their customers either a free five- to six-foot Christmas tree, delivered to the door, or £10 off the order and free delivery, for all Christmas pre-orders over £100.

The offer applies to orders placed up until November 30. Christmas trees will be delivered the week commencing December 14, to allow plenty of time for decoration and enjoyment.

Visit wwwfoodforkent.co.uk for more information and details on how to order.

A crackling festive offer

THERE is still time to enter Produced in Kent's competition to win a 'Crackling Christmas Box', in celebration of the best pork in Kent.

The lucky winner will receive a box of the finest, Kentish pork joint, chops and sausages for a family of four this Christmas.

As part of the campaign, Produced in Kent also created a pork recipe leaflet, available from a selection of butchers, farm shops and restaurants across the county.

This gives you the chance to recreate three delicious pork meals from top Kent eateries.

To enter visit www.producedinkent.co.uk for the competition question.

Email events@producedinkent.co.uk with the answer, which can be found in the recipe leaflet, before December 1, with 'Crackling' in the subject box.

Lessons in local produce

ARE you a Kent farmer or thinking about setting up a food production company in the region?

The University of Kent are running a free one-day course for farmers, growers and food and drink manufacturers in the county to help make the most of local produce.

Run by the business school, advice will be on offer to help businesses understand what people want from locally produced food and drink and how to make the most of our county's natural resources.

The event will run on Tuesday, November 17, from 10.30am to 4.30pm. For more information visit www.producedinkent.co.uk and click on 'Events'.

Farm rears festive turkeys with breast of intentions

With Christmas just over a month away, the Wreathall family at Priory Farm invite RACHEL MCATHY to Romney Marsh, for a taste of turkey farming in the Kent countryside

IN HOMES across the county this Christmas, families will wake up to the sweet aroma of a juicy turkey roasting in the oven.

The bird remains the quintessential centrepiece for a festive feast, with its crisp golden skin and soft, succulent meat.

But rather than settling for a second-rate supermarket choice, why not select the best this year and enjoy ultimate freshness with a turkey reared in the Garden of England?

The best part is, with Foodforkent.co.uk, you can make your order at the click of a mouse, with plenty of choice from the biggest turkey farmer in the county, Appledore Turkeys.

The family business started 60 years ago, when Frank Wreathall decided to rear a handful of turkeys on his farm in Suffolk.

Today, his son, John, and grandsons Andrew and Clive, are continuing to produce top quality birds, albeit on a grander scale, with 19,000 turkeys reared on the farm this year.

Over the last 25 years, Appledore Turkeys has grown to include land at Snave and Ivychurch, bringing the estate up to 2000 acres.

As well as the birds, the Wreathalls also farm wheat, dried peas, oil seed rape and onions.

But the turkeys remain closest to the Wreathall family's heart.

"Rearing turkeys is just something I have been brought up with. We know what they are like and what they need," said Andrew.

"Turkeys have always been an important part of our Christmas and that is why I enjoy rearing them."

Despite pressures from the value supermarket trade, Andrew said quality turkey still has a future.

"There still appears to be a market for a traditional bird at Christmas and there are customers out there who are prepared to spend a bit extra," he said.

"Christmas dinner is, I think, the most important meal of the year, where the whole family gets together, so it is worth pushing the boat out."

Despite producing birds aimed at just one day of the year, planning begins almost as soon as the last Christmas cracker is pulled.

"Work starts straight after Christmas and we order the chicks in January or February," he said.

"They will arrive in June and July as day-old chicks and then stay under heat for the first four weeks."

Their care then continues each day, with regular checks and an automated feeder to allow them constant access to food and water.

Their diet consists of wheat and vegetable proteins, which are free of additives, drugs or growth promoters.

The birds are then bedded down overnight on the farm's home-grown wheat straw.

"We bring them back in at night to keep them safe from foxes and mink," said Andrew.

"They are usually happy to come in to rest and go back in themselves, so I don't have to chase them about!"

Initially, the farm at Appledore produced just white barn-reared birds, but introduced bronze free-range turkeys in 1997 and organic bronze turkeys at a separate farm.

The birds have two more weeks of growing left to do before work starts on getting them ready for the Christmas dinner table next month.

KOS Media will return to the farm in December to find out how all this hard work will result in some of the most succulent meats around and offer tips on how best to enjoy your turkey this Christmas.

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

'Oh yes he is'

By JANE CONNOLLY
jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

EVERY dog has its day at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford, as proved by TV's most charismatic canine.

Handsome hound Churchill will be making his stage debut in Cinderella alongside Lesley Joseph, Laura Evans and the two Ugly Sisters, played by Martin Ramsdin and David Robbins. The gruesome twosome is looking forward to welcoming Churchill, popular star of insurance adverts, onto the stage.

"We met him the other day and he's much bigger in real life and very cute," said Ramsdin. "We worked with Basil Brush a few years ago, so we're used to larger than life characters."

Robbins was also relishing the chance to tread the boards with an advertising icon.

"In the show we have a horse that takes Cinderella to the ball, which is amazing," he said. "They say 'never work with children or animals' but we're doing both."

Ramsdin and Robbins, both 38, have played panto dames for years and worked together as the Ugly Sisters for about six years. Designing their own costumes and writing their own routines, they enjoy a good deal of creative freedom in a fantastic role.

Ramsdin said: "I enjoy playing the sisters because you're sort of the villain of the piece, but also funny and quite glamorous.

"You don't get anything else where you are allowed to be funny, loveable and hated at the same time, that's why it's so much fun."

Their character names vary from year to year and are often topical, giving them the chance to play on the current stories of the time. After so many years working together, they also have a natural chemistry on stage.

"Because we know each other so well, if something goes wrong on stage we can slip into a routine," Robbins said. "One will start it and the other will finish it because we know where it is going."

Even with the recession taking its toll on many families, the pair have seen no drop in pantomime audiences.

"Prices are quite reasonable and around Christmas time, it's a tradition," Robbins said. "It just gives you a lift and this show will hopefully send people away feeling happy."

• ***Cinderella runs at the Orchard Theatre from December 5 to January 10. Ticket prices start at £15, concessions available. Book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.***

LEAD ROLE: Churchill stars with the Ugly Sisters in Cinderella at the Orchard in Dartford

War on anti-social behaviour key to our confidence in police

GETTING anti-social behaviour under control is the top issue that would boost confidence in Kent Police, according to survey results.

About 3,000 shoppers took part in the study by visiting Kent Police Authority (KPA) stands at high streets and Asda supermarkets throughout the county.

Of those quizzed, 46 per cent said anti-social behaviour was the most important factor, while 20 per cent felt it was making sure officers could be relied upon to attend an incident.

Working more closely with the community came in at third with 14 per cent, while regular contract with a neighbourhood officer or PCSO (12 per cent) was fourth.

And eight per cent said they would feel more confident in the force if they were treated with respect when they called.

KPA chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "Part of our role as a police watchdog is to find out public priorities and where the public wants to see money being invested.

"We want to improve confidence in the police and this year we invested in eight task teams to focus on anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

"The teams, made up of one sergeant and five PCs, are being sent into troubled hotspots and are already making a difference to residents' quality of life.

"I'm confident we will see a continued reduction in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage as a result."

The latest figures for public confidence in the police were published by the Home Office in March.

Kent Police had a rating of 44.2 per cent based on interviews with 938 citizens – ranking the force 27th out of 42 in England and Wales.

The average is currently 46 per cent although the Government has set a target of 60 per cent for all constabularies to reach by 2012.

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Bad neighbours

WITH recent talk of more cross-Channel co-operation with France by our local authorities, you would think our Euro neighbours would try their best to keep bridges built.

After the success of the Louis Bleriot celebrations and hopes of the Olympic torch travelling from Calais to Dover in 2012, surely it would be best for everyone to keep the relationship running smoothly so we can all benefit.

But instead, the French authorities are ignoring illegal strike action at their borders, causing chaos on Kent's roads through the dreaded Operation Stack, and subsequently hitting the UK economy hard at a time when every penny counts. Now lawyers have been drafted in to try and secure compensation for the businesses who have struggled through the problems caused by the strikes.

Time and money has been spent by the UK and France to secure our borders from illegal immigrants trying to sneak across the Channel to Britain. But it seems the French should be looking more closely at the illegal action being taken by its own nationals.

Walk on bye, bye…

PRIVATE landowners have been left fuming after it was agreed the entire South East coastline could be opened up to anyone.

Ramblers persuaded Government's arm by mentioning the words "heritage" and, more importantly, "rural economy" – and now we are all free to stroll on.

Fortunately, private gardens have been ruled out so those who desire an all-over tan next summer can do so in their their backyard the local rambling club's prying eyes.

OPINION: Selling out for good return

Tim Garbutt discusses corporate social responsibility and KCC's investment strategy in tobacco

OKAY, Kent certainly doesn't have open prairies, herds of wild horses or too many cowboys eking out a living between Sheppey and Tenterden.

And yet, Kent County Council has a quite extraordinary investment strategy of investing in tobacco brands. Not just one, but two major tobacco firms: Philip Morris, the home of Marlboro man, plus Japan Tobacco and a cluster of brands such as Camel, Silk Cut and Old Holborn.

And not just a few roll-ups or a few cartons of duty-free – more than £9 million of tobacco investments in its £900 millon pension and reserve funds.

Certainly it's a free country, and tobacco is still legal. But what an extraordinary investment decision for a major public authority like KCC.

One minute it's funding smoking cessation strategies and the next, investing millions of taxpayer funds in cancer sticks, while down at Dover, Kent Customs are trying to reduce the flow of tobacco smuggling.

It's all the more bizarre given last week's Parliamentary Bill on removing cigarettes from display in shops, banning vending machines and introducing graphic pictures and warnings of the dangers of smoking on-pack.

It never fails to surprise me just how lethal smoking is: the single largest killer in Britain today with over 100,000 deaths directly from smoking – not including deaths from related symptoms and health complications.

East Kent has the highest lung cancer rate in South East England and a mortality rate 11 years earlier than the rest of Kent – perhaps partly due to Manston Airport and removal of noise and air monitoring, but also relatively deprived areas and tobacco smoking.

It's no surprise to see how lucrative the smoking industry is: with billions of people still to pick up the habit in Africa and Asia, the UN's World Health Organisation forecasts millions more deaths over the next decades.

Whether it's in Vietnam, with a whopping 77 per cent smoking rate, or even in the UK where 20 per cent of the population are still smoking.

A glance through the KCC investment budgets highlights a few other strange ethical investments. Not just one booze company, but a whole round of them: Carlsberg, Wetherspoon, Asahi and so on. All the more unusual as there's not a penny for Kent pubs and brewers.

Now I'm as partial to a pint of advocaat as the next man, but again it does seem strange with KCC, Kent Police, and the NHS urging greater care over drinking, liver disease and the perils of happy hours and cheap booze.

And there's also BAe. Now Britain still needs a defence industry, but BAe poses ever more complex ethical investment issues, given recent controversy over deals with Saudi Arabia and others.

And a legacy of mismanagement that means the Eurofighter aircraft are too expensive to fly.

Some people would debate the merits of Wal-Mart, a kind of American super-Tesco and owner of Asda, undercutting other retailers and prominence of clone towns – one of the quirks of capitalism allowing choice and growth to monopolise markets and reduce choice and value.

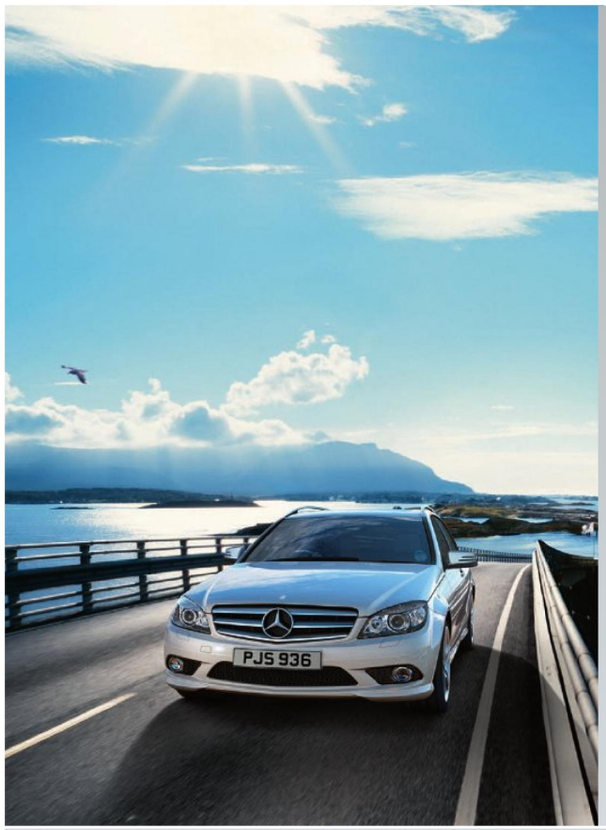
It's not all doom, gloom and cancer though. KCC does provide full disclosure through FOI and EIR and invests in ethical banks such as Standards Chartered with their innovative work in HIV messaging on cashpoints in Africa and oil-to-renewables firms such as BP.

Perhaps of greater concern is KCC's investment in Total Oil, the last investor in the repressive dictatorship of Burma – as visited recently by Kent's twin-state Senator Jim Webb of Virginia for discussions on releasing Britain's Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

There's certainly an issue around investment companies providing a portfolio of investments that might be beyond day-to-day scrutiny, but surely KCC should be providing some guidelines on investments that are beyond the pale, or at the very least provide an ethical framework for corporate social responsibility. Like booze, guns and repressive dictatorships.

Maybe it's for the best that we're twinned with Virginia the home of Philip Morris – and the potential for a joint venture with Kent cigarettes.

• ***Tim Garbutt is the managing director of Sincerity Agency the green and ethical advertising agency based in East Kent. www.sincerityagency.com.***



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The rest of us manage

I agree with Kenneth Little's letter last week regarding North Thanet MP Roger Gale.

As an electronics engineer based in Kent, I used to drive into London doing 12-hour night shifts for half the money paid to MPs.

I received no expenses or help of any kind, yet still managed to own a house, run a good car and afford many of life's luxuries.

If the company I worked for had a vacancy, it had to be advertised and hopefully the best applicant got the job. In fact, husbands and wives working together was discouraged.

I look forward to a Westminster clearout of careerists, ciphers and lobby fodder, but I won't be holding my breath.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Consulting the people

I agree with Alan Bullion (Letters, last week) that it is difficult to achieve international agreements such as on the Lisbon Treaty and climate change.

However, I have witnessed the stages in the development of the European Union since the 1975 referendum, in which British people accepted membership of the then European Community, without a single opportunity for other referenda about European issues.

Whether Lisbon will make the EU more democratic is debatable and beside the point. The main concern we can legitimately share regardless of our views about the EU is that people in the UK should be able to vote on constitutional changes to the EU, as people in other countries often have.

The Green Party approach is that we should constructively engage with the EU and fundamentally reform it. In particular, the Common Agricultural Policy must go and its resources should support the EU's social, environmental and regional policies instead.

But the most important reform we should have concerning the EU is within the power of the UK government: referenda on major changes to the EU's roles or structures. Our relations with Europe should be based on the informed choice of the public, not the preferences of governments alone.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party, Tonbridge

Indifference speaks volumes

Homophobia comes in many disguises – one of them is indifference.

Angeliki Ioannidou, the diversity officer for Canterbury council, left her post in February. After inquiries as to when the post would be filled, we were eventually told on October 27, eight months later, that it was decided to recruit to a generic policy officer rather than a diversity officer.

We then wrote requesting the title of the new post, the name of the new officer and a copy of the job decription. We have received no reply to, or acknowledgement of, our request. This is in keeping with the council's indifference to the work we are doing on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

Visit the supporters' page on our website www.prideincanterbury.org.uk to see the names of the many who are not indifferent to our work.

We emailed East Kent NHS Trust asking which of their officers works with the LGBT community, and what was the trust's involvement in this year's World Aids Day commemoration. We received the reply: 'Could you explain what LGBT stands for?'

We emailed Canterbury Cathedral for information about its contribution to World Aids Day, a day of great significance for the LGBT community and for the wider world, and were informed that there would be no service this year.

The indifference of these three important organisations speaks volumes.

Pride in Canterbury

Cameron the gutless

Just what is the point of a general election with this pathetic crowd of wannabe MPs when they are all singing from the same hymn sheet? Some people said they were unsure about David Cameron – and it turns out they were right. So many were relying on this man to give people a voice but, just like his predecessors, he just hasn't got the guts.

Is this the same man who was so scathing about Gordon Brown not giving us a referendum? Just what kind of a hypocrisy is this?

I thought he only beat David Davis in the election for Tory leader because he was good with the gab, like Tony Blair, and that has now been seen to be true.

I realise it would take a real man to ask the people their preference for the future of their country but, sadly, it is not Cameron.

I hope the Conservatives are banished into the wilderness again, along with the awful crowd that are in now. My only hope now is Ukip or other parties, because none of the three main parties are there to represent the people who want their country back.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Talking about recovery

Recent figures show an estimated 3,270 people in the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley area had a stroke in 2005-06.

A stroke is a 'brain attack', often brought on by high blood pressure. It can leave people with severe communication difficulties such as problems with talking, reading, writing and understanding other people's speech.

I work for the Stroke Association and am co-ordinating new services that offer support in developing communication skills for people in Dartford, Swanley and Gravesend.

This service will support people in regaining lost communication skills or finding new ways to communicate after a stroke.

It's also an opportunity to meet regularly with others who have gone through a similar experience. I'm looking for volunteers who might be interested in donating their time to our new service.

As a support volunteer, readers could be supporting stroke survivors who have communication difficulties either in a group, on a one-to-one basis in their home or in the community.

It's an extremely rewarding and enjoyable role and, while a background in speech therapy or nursing, for example, wouldbe a welcome asset, no specific experience or skills are required, as we'll provide full training.

The most important attributes needed are patience, compassion, good listening skills, reliability and a sense of humour.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, or in using the service themselves, can contact me on 07931548049 or 01474 871837; or email joan.hankey@stroke.org.uk.

Jo Hankey, the Stroke Association

Letters continued on page 34

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

AMBROSE
Alexander and Melissa are proud to announce the birth of Dylan Thomas Ambrose on 23rd October 2009 at Maidstone Hospital.

FOWLE
Jim and Claire are proud to announce the birth of baby William, born 22nd Oct., brother to James, Edward and Harriet.

KAJZER
Jacek and Aldona are very happy to announce the birth of their son Martin Edwin Kajzer who was born at 12.43 am on the 25th October 2009 and weighed 2.5 kg. He is a special gift for us and all his family and friends here and in Poland.

MACKEN
April and Daniel are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Josie-May Macken born on 19th October 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford. Josie-May weighed in at 6lbs 11oz.

McCUTCHEON
Natalie and Barry are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Destiny Mary born on 7th November 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital. Destiny is a baby sister of Lucy-Ella and Alfie.

NOWBUTSING-HARRIS
Adrian and Yamla Nowbutsing-Harris celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Sonika on 2nd October 2009.

PENNY
Simon and Fiona are delighted to announce the birth of their second son, Isaac Peter, born on 30th October 2009 at Pembury Hospital.
A brother for Giles.

ROBERTSON
Donna and Andrew are pleased to announce the birth of their son Ewan James born on 5th November 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford.

DEATHS

FOREMAN
Mrs Daphne S Foreman. 1923 - 2009. At peace, God bless. Families and friends. All enquiries to Welch and Sons of Herne Bay.

KIELL
Val sadly passed away on 5th November 2009. Much loved and respected by all the family and friends and will live forever in our memories. Funeral enquiries to Bournes of Dartford.

MESNARD
It is with great sadness that John and Sarah announce the death of Joan, beloved wife and mother on 5th November 2009, following a short illness. She will remain in our thoughts forever.

SCHOFIELD (AKA COPELAND)
Margaret Aileen Schofield on 4th November 2009 aged 71. Dearly loved Mother of Tim, Sarah and Katie, Grandmother of David, Charlie, Niamh, Orla, Benjamin and Sebastian. Funeral service at Medway Crematorium (Bluebell Hill) at 2pm on 17th November 2009. Family flowers only but donations may be made to NSPCC.

WASHINGTON
Lilian Ada Washington 1925-2009. Died peacefully on Monday 2nd November 2009. Together again with her beloved husband George. Forever in our thoughts and will be truly missed. All our love, your Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and Great Great Grandchildren. Special thanks to Creedy House, New Romney. Donations to the NSPCC c/o Chittendens of Hythe.

Letters continued from page 33

We'll crash and burn

When Parliament debated the abolition of slavery in the 1830s there were those who argued that abolition would harm the economy, reducing profits and losing jobs.

The same arguments were used by some politicians in the 1850s, when we forced China to accept the opium trade – and effectively stole Hong Kong and other territories in reparations for China having sought to protect its citizens from the harm caused by the drug.

You would think humanity would have moved on from using the excuse that the creation of jobs was sufficient justification for causing appalling human misery, suffering and death, but not so.

Today many politicians, including London Mayor Boris Johnson, are using the same arguments to defend staggeringly callous and immoral behaviour.

Despite hard scientific evidence that climate change is already killing 300,000 people per annum and, if not stopped, will result in the loss of hundreds of millions of lives, we still hear calls from certain politicians to expand aviation and other polluting activities.

It is simply unacceptable that people tolerate this barbarism – for that is what calls to create an airport in the Thames Estuary (and other polluting activities) represent.

The science is now so clear that everyone must demand that all politicians act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

And, if we don't want to kill our own offspring, we are not talking about mere tinkering. We need cuts of about 95 per cent from the world's advanced economies by 2050.

We all have a responsibility to challenge those politicians in power who seek to expand polluting activities and must ask them, in a candid way, to justify the utter misery and mass loss of life they are willing to accept.

Geoff Juby, Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Rochester and Strood

Spreading our Wings

The Wings Appeal has completed its campaign for 2009. As always, the appeal relies on the generosity of the public in raising funds necessary to maintain its range of welfare services to retired personnel.

These include respite care, home and hospital visits, war disablement, widows' pensions, sheltered housing etc.

Added to this, it serves the RAF with support for families of those on active service with financial and housing problems, internet cafés and so on.

We are delighted to announce that collections at Morrisons, Tesco and Sainsbury's in the Whitstable and Canterbury area amounted to £2,721.

The Whitstable branch of the RAF Association would like to thank all collectors who volunteered their time, as well as the companies who provided the sites, thus achieving this excellent result.

Thank you, one and all.

G. Brenchley, secretary, RAFA

On the run for respite

I wonder how many KOS Media readers are training for the London Marathon next year?

I have a wonderful idea for how they can raise money for a fantastic cause at the same time.

I work for a charity called Vitalise, which provides essential breaks for disabled adults, children and carers at five accessible UK centres, one of which is Vitalise Jubilee Lodge in Chigwell.

We really need your help. There are tens of thousands of disabled people and carers in the south east, but did you know that a third of them have never been able to take a break, due to the physical or financial difficulties involved?

Just a few days' break each year from the daily routine can make the difference between coping and despair, between just existing and really living.

That's why the work Vitalise does is so important. We provide desperately needed respite breaks for thousands of disabled people and carers each year, so they can enjoy the kind of holiday the rest of take for granted. But it's not easy. All the money we need to do this comes from our own fundraising and the amazing efforts of our supporters. Not a penny comes from the Government.

So if you're looking for a fantastic cause to support in the London Marathon 2010, join Team Vitalise.

You'll have the satisfaction of knowing that the money you raise will be making a real difference to the lives of thousands of disabled people and carers from across the region. We'll support you every step of the way. For more information, call me on 0845 345 1972, email events@vitalise.org.uk or visit www.vitalise.org.uk.

Karolina Chmielewska, Vitalise

Poetic stocking-filler

With Christmas fast approaching, I would like to make readers aware of a delightful children's poetry book, with poems selected by famous personalities, which is now on sale.

The anthology of poems – entitled The Walrus and the Carpenter – will raise money for the Children's Trust, a national charity which provides specialist care for some of the UK's most severely disabled children, and rehabilitation services to children with an acquired brain injury.

All the people who have chosen their favourite verse, or shown their support for this lovely commemorative book, share a common belief that poetry is very special and should be fun and memorable – from Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy to McFly, Elaine Paige, Paul O'Grady, actors and sports personalities.

An additional poem 10-year-old Francesca Major, winner of a children's competition held this year, is also included, with illustrations provided by children from the trust.

Launched as part of the trust's 25th anniversary celebrations in 2009, it is hoped that at just £4.99 – with all profits from the sale of the book benefiting the Children's Trust – the poetry book will be a huge hit at Christmas as a stocking-filler for youngsters.

Published in association with Walker Books, the paperback is available online at: www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/walrusbook.

The poetry book will also be available at most main book stores from this month. The Walrus and the Carpenter is full of fun, so please buy a copy and enjoy reading these poems with your family this Christmas.

Jacqueline Wilson, author, on behalf of the Children's Trust

Meningitis warning

As the cold winter weather takes hold, I would like to remind readers of the dangers of meningitis.

My daughter, Megan, fell ill two years ago when she was 16. It was a very frightening time and she's only here today because her boyfriend was alert to the symptoms of meningitis.

With first-class care from the NHS, she went on to make a full recovery after two weeks in hospital. I know how lucky we were. I recently shared my story for a BBC Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of Meningitis UK, a charity dedicated to vaccine research. Its vision is to protect future generations and eradicate the disease completely.

Although vaccines exist for some forms of bacterial meningitis, there still isn't one for meningitis B – the most common strain in this country.

It's a chilling fact that six families will lose a loved one to meningitis every week, some within just four hours of displaying any symptoms. In the absence of a vaccine, it's vital people are educated about meningitis and know what signs to look out for, especially at this time of the year when cases begin to rise.

The classic symptoms to look out for with meningitis are usually a headache, stiff neck and dislike of bright light. With septicaemia, stay alert for aching limbs, cold hands and feet, and a rash which starts like pinprick marks and develops rapidly into purple bruising. The disease can affect anyone of any age. Not everyone gets all the symptoms and they can appear in any order. I would urge your readers to listen to my Radio 4 Appeal online by visiting www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/appeal where they can find details of how to support the life-saving work being carried out by Meningitis UK.

Sandi Toksvig, writer, comedian and broadcaster

Eloquent and heartfelt

Last week's anonymous letter from the person who altered the Poppy Appeal posters was very eloquently expressed.

It is clear that the individual responsible is truly sorry for any distress caused and is genuinely shocked about the angry response from certain quarters.

The author shouldn't really be blamed for not wishing to reveal his/her identity as one can easily imagine the hounding and vilification that would surely follow.

Tony Blair alone was the intended target of the poster's modification. He led us into an illegal conflict and should be prosecuted for war crimes at The Hague.

The family/friends of Damian Wright and the Royal British Legion would do better to direct their fury towards Blair and other duplicitous politicians who sent our armed forces to fight and die in the Middle East to satisfy the USA's colonialist ambitions.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

Loss of independence

The proposed Sainsbury's superstore in the small, historic town of Hythe is a very sorry issue indeed. I consider myself lucky to live in a town that still has an independent butcher, baker, fishmonger, greengrocer and chemist, but such diversity would be gone for ever if the superstore goes ahead.

Many residents are unaware of the enormity of the building Sainsbury's is proposing – of a similar size to the Tesco in Cheriton. This building would be a vast, flat-roof monolith of glass, metal and terra-cotta cladding – a design out of keeping with the town. A superstore of this size is disproportionate to a small town like Hythe – already served by three supermarkets meeting most needs and complementing the High Street – and will have a drastic impact. It is estimated that 15 delivery trucks per day will service the store, which is close to housing and particularly the 200-year-old Military Terrace cottages.

Does anyone agree it is acceptable to have HGVs carrying out deliveries alongside these homes between 7am and 10pm each day, with a significant increase at peak times such as Christmas?

The traffic survey carried out in February – when the town has its fewest visitors – must also be questioned. Let's have this again in summer, when every parking space in Military Road is taken. No wonder the artist's impressions show a Military Road free from parked cars and only a handful of moving vehicles – wouldn't that be nice in August? Dream on. The reality is Military Road is already busy at peak times and during the tourist season. The application is expected to go before Shepway's council's development control committee on November 24 and I urge residents to write to the planning department and councillors. These people have the future of the town in their hands. Visit www.devstop.org.uk for information and register your support at the Care About Hythe Facebook group.

Stephen Nicoll, Hythe

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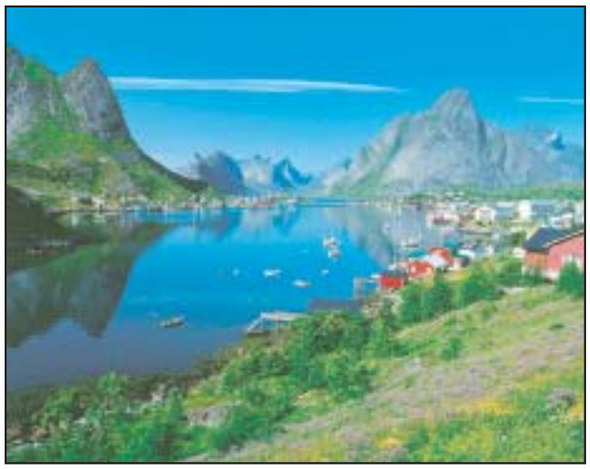
South Quay Cruises put more emphasis on attaining high levels of customer satisfaction by offering personal, attentive and friendly service, ensuring that their discerning passengers return home with many fond memories and will cruise with them again and again.

The company now offers an exciting and extended programme of cruises for 2010, under the new brand of Cruise & Maritime Voyages.

There will be 24 cruises departing from Tilbury on the popular Marco Polo, plus 22 brand new cruises on board the slender Ocean Countess, departing from seven regional ports around the United Kingdom.

Over recent years, the 800-passenger, 22,000grt Marco Polo has built up a strong following on the British market, offering a fine tradition of destination cruising and a great value cruise experience. In 2010, Marco Polo will be positioned as a 'child free' ship, operating exclusively for adult passengers, and her home port will be the London Cruise Terminal in Tilbury.



GOOD LIFE: Fine dining and spectacular, ever-changing scenery are just some of the attractions on board the Ocean Countess, top

In addition, South Quay Cruises are proud to welcome the 800-passenger, 17,500grt Ocean Countess to the fleet following a £3 million refurbishment during the winter, prior to the start of the season in spring 2010.

She began service as the popular Cunard Countess and became one of the best-known ships to sail the Caribbean.

Ocean Countess will operate all year round from seven different British ports, including London Tilbury, Hull, Newcastle, Edinburgh Leith, Greenock, Liverpool, and Plymouth, bringing cruising closer to home.

There are some fabulous cruises available for 2010, starting with prices from only £149 per person for a two-night Amsterdam Weekend cruise aboard the Ocean Countess, sailing on April 18, 2010.

The Marco Polo embarks on a Gallic Discovery cruise of six nights, from £379 per person on April 23, 2010, exploring the unique Anglo-French charm of Guernsey, plus the Scilly Isles.

Try the new Iberian Highlights cruise, which departs from Plymouth on October 8, 2010, with 11 nights from £779 per person.

Alternatively, the Norwegian fjords are a popular destination, and there is a choice of departure dates with, for example, a six-night Springtime Fjordland cruise from only £379 per person, sailing from Hull on April 20, 2010.

This is just a selection of some of the amazing cruises available from South Quay Cruises, with many more in their 2010 brochure. For details, contact South Quay Cruises on 0845 375 2318 or visit www.sqt-club.co.uk

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With a fleet of three elegantly-designed mid-sized vessels, Oceania Cruises offers guests the chance to visit many of the world's most exciting destinations, whilst retaining a consistent onboard environment of comfort and relaxation – likened by many clients to 'coming home' after a day of adventure.

The ships' distinctive size allows for other indulgences as well, especially with regard to cuisine, which Oceania unabashedly believes to be the finest at sea. Each dish in the four open-seating restaurants is prepared to order, beautifully presented and graciously served.

The two speciality restaurants, Toscana and Polo Grill, provide a more intimate and exquisite dining experience – surprisingly with absolutely no cover charge!

Enhancements

Oceania Cruises is breaking new ground, winning numerous awards every year since launching, including Conde Nast Gold List and Travel & Leisure Best in Class, each for the past five years running.

However, they are not resting on their laurels. Constant product reviews and enhancements ensure that Oceania Cruises continue to develop in line with their clients' needs.

Impeccable, personalised service is the hallmark of more than 400 international staff, a luxury made possible by the fact that there are only 684 guests to pamper.

The ambience exudes warmth and conviviality, much like that of a private club. The atmosphere is elegant, but comfortably casual, inviting guests to relax and enjoy life to the fullest.

Guests can melt away any tensions in Oceania's world-renowned Canyon Ranch SpaClub, where certified fitness instructors conduct daily group and private fitness, yoga and tai chi classes for guests, while The Canyon Ranch SpaClub Beauty Salon offers beauty services for women and men alike.

When looking for quality and understated luxury, more and more clients are making Oceania Cruises their first choice.

During the summer months, guests can explore the culture and history of the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Baltic States, as well as an awe-inspiring visit to the Polar Ice Barrier. From the hot-spots of Barcelona and Monte Carlo to the cultural centres of Venice and St Petersburg, the choices are astounding.

During the winter months, itineraries stretch to opposite corners of the earth. Experience the mystical and mysterious Far East, with cruises featuring calls in Thailand, China, Vietnam, Japan and South Korea.

Alternatively, one can cruise the length of South America, visiting Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Valparaiso, or wander through the myriad islands of the Caribbean such as St Barts, Dominica and Barbados.

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Nestled in the tree lined, picturesque, Cinque port that is Tenterden, you will find the most discerning of Travel Agents. Travelux has been providing independent travel advice and holiday planning resources since 1972 and is as eager to serve today, as it has ever been. Whether it be a short hop to the continent or a cruise voyage around the world, an adventurous safari in Africa or a delicious spa indulgence in the Far East, Travelux can provide you with the ingredients, the security and the new ideas that only come from being an experienced and professional travel business.

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Our team will always aim to help you book the travel arrangements which will be right for you. We can cater for dreams, book surprises, tailor make itineraries, suggest locations, speak from experience and provide assurances. We are fully licensed and bonded offering you and your money safety and security and we are also members of several leading travel associations who share our passion and dedication to the travel industry as a whole. We have access to the expertise and knowledge of many tour operators and ancillary providers who are not just our colleagues, they are our friends.

Our well establish Greek tour operating programme is co-ordinated by a dedicated team at our offices in Tenterden. Our connections with Greece are long standing and currently we operate Luxury villa holidays on the Ionian Islands of Lefkada & Meganissi, alongside mountain retreat experiences in the mainland region of Zagori. These locations offer a more traditional Greece; idyllic surroundings and peace and quiet, far away from the masses.

Visit www.traveluxgreece.co.uk to view our villas or call 01580 765000 to request your brochure.

2010 Brochures OUT NOW

Lefkada (Greece) & Empordà (Spain)

Our newest programme to the Empordà region of North East Spain will rightly appeal to anyone seeking a bit of extra flavour to their holiday. We have sought out a fine selection of "boutique" style hotels which can be reached by private transfer from Barcelona allowing the convenience of an international airport but the flexibility to choose from coastline or rolling countryside, resorts or village locations. Once settled in the region you are never further than 25 minutes from sites featuring varied activites, gastronomy, art and history or just indulge in the simplest pleasure – relaxation.

Travelux Cruises

Travelux is proud to be an appointed Leading Cruise Agent and can offer a vast selection of cruise experiences. If you wish to sail the seven seas, or amble along winding rivers, live in the lap of luxury or live each day (and night) to the fullest we can find the cruising vessel to suit you. It does not matter how old you are or what your interests, or indeed budget can cope with, there is always a holiday afloat that will meet your needs.

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May 24, 2010 onboard *Insignia*

Provence (Marseille) • Cannes
Cinque Terre (La Spezia) • Florence/Pisa (Livorno)
Rome (Civitavecchia) • Sorrento/Capri • Taormina
Corfu • Kotor • Dubrovnik *overnight* • Koper
Venice *overnight*

FARES FROM	STANDARD FARE	SPECIAL OFFER FARE
Veranda Stateroom	$4,874	**$3,874**
Ocean View Stateroom	3,874	**2,874**
Inside Stateroom	3,574	**2,574**

Fares are cruise-only including all taxes

Scandinavian Splendors

LONDON TO STOCKHOLM 14-DAY VOYAGE

June 2, 2010 onboard *Regatta*

London (Dover) • Bruges (Zeebrugge) • Amsterdam
Kiel Canal Transit • Berlin (Warnemünde) • Copenhagen
Visby • Riga • Tallinn • St. Petersburg *two overnights*
Helsinki • Stockholm *overnight*

FARES FROM	STANDARD FARE	SPECIAL OFFER FARE
Veranda Stateroom	$5,549	**$4,549**
Ocean View Stateroom	4,549	**3,549**
Inside Stateroom	4,149	**3,149**

Fares are cruise-only including all taxes

Yacht Havens

ROME TO BARCELONA 10-DAY VOYAGE

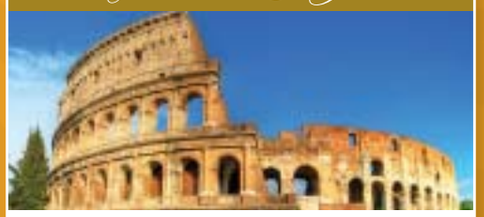
June 17, 2010 onboard *Insignia*

Rome (Civitavecchia) • Bonifacio (Corsica)
Cinque Terre (Portovenere) • Provence (Marseille)
Cannes • Portofino • Olbia/Porto Cervo (Sardinia)
Saint-Tropez • Sanary-sur-Mer • Sète • Barcelona

FARES FROM	STANDARD FARE	SPECIAL OFFER FARE
Veranda Stateroom	$4,149	**$3,149**
Ocean View Stateroom	3,449	**2,449**
Inside Stateroom	3,149	**2,149**

Fares are cruise-only including all taxes

Classical Delights



BARCELONA TO VENICE 14-DAY VOYAGE

July 10, 2010 onboard *Nautica*

Barcelona • Palma de Mallorca • Provence (Marseille)
Monte Carlo • Portofino • Florence/Pisa (Livorno)
Cinque Terre (La Spezia) • Rome (Civitavecchia)
Sorrento/Capri • Amalfi/Positano • Taormina
Corfu • Korcula • Venice *overnight*

FARES FROM	STANDARD FARE	SPECIAL OFFER FARE
Veranda Stateroom	$5,839	**$4,839**
Ocean View Stateroom	4,839	**3,839**
Inside Stateroom	4,439	**3,439**

Fares are cruise-only including all taxes

Majestic Mosaic

LISBON TO ROME 12-DAY VOYAGE

August 24, 2010 onboard *Insignia*

Lisbon • Tangier • Seville (Cádiz)
Málaga • Alicante • Ibiza • Barcelona
Saint-Tropez • Cannes • Monte Carlo • Portofino
Florence/Pisa (Livorno) • Rome (Civitavecchia)

FARES FROM	STANDARD FARE	SPECIAL OFFER FARE
Veranda Stateroom	$4,994	**$4,494**
Ocean View Stateroom	3,994	**3,494**
Inside Stateroom	3,694	**3,194**

Fares are cruise-only including all taxes

Black Sea Serenade

ISTANBUL TO ATHENS 12-DAY VOYAGE

August 29, 2010 onboard *Nautica*

Istanbul *overnight* • Nessebur • Constanta
Odessa • Sevastopol • Sinop
Trabzon • Sochi • Yalta
Kusadasi • Athens (Piraeus)

FARES FROM	STANDARD FARE	SPECIAL OFFER FARE
Veranda Stateroom	$4,994	**$3,994**
Ocean View Stateroom	3,994	**2,994**
Inside Stateroom	3,694	**2,694**

Fares are cruise-only including all taxes

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* Fares listed are cruise only in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy and include Non-Discountable Fares and Government Taxes. All fares and offers are subject to availability, may not be combinable with other offers, are capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. All fares are cruise only, and do not include Gratuities, Prepaid Charges, Optional Facilities and Services Fees, and personal charges, as defined in the Terms and Conditions of the Guest Ticket Contract which may be viewed at www.OceaniaCruises.co.uk . Oceania Cruises reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, and surcharges at any time. The Cruise Ship Fuel Surcharge is additional revenue to Oceania Cruises. Additional terms and conditions may apply. Complete terms and conditions may be found in the Guest Ticket Contract. Ships' Registry: Marshall Islands PRO26069

Avoid airports and sail from a home port

SETTING off on a cruise can often mean flying hundreds, if not thousands of miles, to pick up the ship.

But it's more than possible to use a variety of British ports, some right here in Kent.

Last year, some 40 per cent of cruise bookings made by Brits used a UK port, and with more ships arriving next year, it appears the no-fly cruise market is growing in popularity.

Some, like William Gibbons, the director of the Passenger Shipping Association, believe taking to the seas will soon proportionally outstrip air travel. He said cruise companies are learning how to find their market in the UK by using more and more local docking facilities.

For example, P&O Cruises has almost 130 cruises leaving Southampton next year. Managing director Carol Marlow said: "Being able to avoid the hassle of airports, bring as much luggage as you like without worrying about hand luggage, liquids or excess baggage charges, and simply board the ship within 30 minutes – these are luxuries our passengers soon realise they can't do without."

British ports like Dover, Southampton and Portsmouth are easy to get to by road, and P&O has a fleet of coaches using numerous pick-up points. Others, like Titan HiTours, do door-to-door pick-ups.

Cunard Lines said many people like to design their breaks so that they spend the maximum amount of time at sea, especially when they are on board its iconic Queen Mary 2 ship, for the "sense of escapism".

Ballrooms

Of all the seasons, autumn is one of the best to sample a cruise, with fewer passengers and lower prices.

The Queen Mary 2 leaves Southampton for a six-day trip to New York. Luxury is the key word here – the ship has a variety of suites and ballrooms, with crossings costing from about £900.

The stargazing sessions run by the Royal Astronomical Society are also popular.

Leaving from Dover for 29 days is the luxurious Seabourn Sojourn, calling at ports including Rouen, St Malo, Cartagena, and Lipari Island, and finally Rome. The cost starts at about £10,000 per person.

Also departing from Dover is Fred. Olsen, which runs Arts Club cruises exploring the ancient worlds, and calls in at Almeria, Villefranche, Civitavecchia, Piraeus and Lisbon.

The itinerary, with many speakers giving lectures, also includes full days in Alexandria, Limassol, Alanya, Sfax and La Goulette.

Prices are from about £1,500 up to about £3,000 for a suite with balcony.

Anyone wanting to end their cruise closer to home can opt for the Hebridean Princess which sails from Scotland to her winter home at Tilbury just over the river in Essex. It explores the best of the British coast and includes a reception on board HMS Warrior in Portsmouth, and even a trip to Leeds Castle. It costs from about £1,800 each.

Leaving Southampton are P&O's long weekends in Europe, costing a few hundred pounds each, including stops over three days at Zeebrugge, Bruges and Ghent. The company uses its Oceana or the child-free Arcadia, and an on-board gala dinner is part of the package.

For a longer trip, the world's largest cruise ship, Independence of the Seas, from Royal Caribbean, can take in 11 nights around the Canary Islands with full days in Funchal, Madeira, Lisbon and Vigo in Spain. It leaves from Southampton and costs from £900 per person.

There are 25 nights in the Caribbean for about £1,800 with Black Watch, leaving Southampton. The ship carries almost 900 passengers, and visits La Coruña and Madeira before setting off for Barbados, St Lucia, St Maarten, Tortola and Antigua. The return journey is broken with a day in the Azores, thanks to Titan HiTours.

Slightly shorter is the 15-nights trip in the same region with P&O, with a flight back from Barbados costing just over £1,500 per person in a stateroom with balcony. It also leaves from Southampton, on board the Ventura, and includes a day in Tenerife. The price includes the return flight

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2 night pre cruise stay in Barcelona
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4 night cruise departs Barcelona 20th May and sails to: Marseilles and Ibiza (overnight in port) **before returning to Barcelona.**

Inside stateroom from only **£699pp**

Oceanview stateroom from only **£729pp**

Balcony stateroom from only **£799pp**

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Adventure of the Seas
2 night pre cruise stay in Barcelona
PLUS HOP-ON, HOP-OFF CITY TOUR
5 night cruise departs Barcelona 15th May and sails to: Villefranche; Cagliari and Palermo before returning to Barcelona.

Inside stateroom from only **£699pp**

Oceanview stateroom from only **£799pp**

Balcony stateroom from only **£899pp**

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Whether you are a **Kentish Man** or a **Man of Kent**, Dover, Port of Kings is within easy reach. There is no need to get stuck in traffic on the M25, no need to check in 3 hours ahead, and no need to struggle with your bags. You can simply glide into the Cruise Port, your luggage is whisked away and in no time at all you are on board, already on holiday, without even having left the county.

With a Fred. Olsen Cruise booked by Travelux you can enjoy the added benefits of door to door transfers* or complimentary parking* making the transition from home to away even easier.

Throughout the Spring and Summer of 2010 the very fine Fred. Olsen ships Balmoral and Braemar will operate their cruise schedules out of Dover. With itineraries to the Baltic, Norway, Mediterranean or Canaries on offer there is a cruise adventure to suit you. Cruise for 3 nights to get a feel for life at sea or cruise for 3 weeks exploring the Adriatic or, if home is really where the heart is, cruise for 9 nights around the UK.

Travelux of Tenterden is the leading agent for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines in Kent. We have been selling cruises for over 30 years and have all had experience of the Fred. Olsen fleet. We can reassure the newest cruiser, recommend to the seasoned traveller and realise anyone's cruising ambitions.

* Conditions apply

Dover Departures

Celtic Spring (M1010) - 20 May 2010 for 9 nts

Dover, Dartmouth - England, Tresco - Isles of Scilly, Dublin - Ireland, Belfast - Northern Ireland, Stornoway - Scotland, Kirkwall - Scotland, Invergordon - Scotland, Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£759**

Mediterranean Charm (L1005) - 22 May 2010 for 22 nts

Dover - Gibraltar - Cagliari - Scenic Cruise Isola Vulcano - Cruise Strait of Messina - Messina, Sicily - Piraeus - Volos - Thessaloniki - Kavala - Valletta - Elvissa - La Coruna - Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,709**

Summer Fjords (L1006) - 13 June 2010 for 7 nts

Dover, Bergen - Norway, Olden - Norway, Flam - Norway, Vik - Norway, Farsund - Norway, Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£659**

Baltic Beauty (L1007) - 20 June 2010 for 12 nts

Dover, Kiel Canal Transit - Brunsbuttel, Kiel Canal Transit - Holtenau, Kiel - Germany, Tallinn - Estonia, St. Petersburg - Russia, Helsinki - Finland, Stockholm - Sweden, Copenhagen - Denmark, Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,049**

Gateway to the Arctic (L1008) - 2 July 2010 for 15 nts

Dover, Narvik - Norway, Honningsvag - Norway, Cruise Bear Island - Svalbard, Ny Alesund - Svalbard, Cruise Magdalenefjord - Svalbard, Longyearbyen - Svalbard, Tromso - Norway, Bergen - Norway, Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,369**

The French Collection (M1016) - 21 July 2010 for 8 nts

Dover, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Antwerp, Belgium, L'Orient, France, St. Malo, France, St. Peter Port - Guernsey, Honfleur - France, Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£659**

Canary Islands Cruise (M1017) - 29 July 2010 for 14 nts

Dover - Leixoes,Portugal - Arrecife,Lanzarote,Canary Islands - Santa Cruz de Tenerife,Canary Islands - San Sebastian La Gomera,Canary Islands - Santa Cruz de la Palma,Canary Islands - Funchal,Madeira - Vigo,Spain - Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£1,069**

Western Mediterranean (L1011) - 7 August 2010 for 14 nts

Dover - Gibraltar - Cartagena - Livorno - Ajaccio - Eivissa - Lisbon - Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,099**

Iberia (M1019) - 19 August 2010 for 8 nts

Dover - Fowey, England - Leixoes, Portugal - La Coruna, Spain - Bilbao, Spain - La Pallice, France - Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£649**

French Flirt Mini Cruise (M1020) - 27 August 2010 for 3 nts

Dover - St. Peter Port, Guernsey - Honfleur, France - Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£269**

Norway Fjords Cruise (L1014) - 28 August 2010 for 12 nts

Dover - Amsterdam, Netherlands, - Invergordon, Scotland - Stavanger, Norway - Eidfjord, Norway - Skjolden, Norway - Olden, Norway - Molde, Norway - Andalsnes, Norway - Bergen, Norway - Antwerp, Belgium - Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£999**

Inspiring Italy (M1022) - 6 September 2010 for 16 nts

Dover - Gibraltar - Cagliari, Sardinia - Scenic Cruise Capri - Naples - Civitavecchia - Livorno - Portoferraio - Almeria - Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£1,399**

Adriatic (L1016) - 21 September 2010 for 21 nts

Dover - Gibraltar - Cagliari, Sardinia - Cruise Aeolian Islands - Cruise Straits of Messina - Brindisi - Venice - Split - Kotor - Palma, Mallorca - Cadiz - Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,659**

Treasures of the Tsars (M1023) - 22 September 2010 for 13 nts

Dover, Copenhagen - Denmark, Visby - Sweden, Turku - Finland, Helsinki - Finland, St. Petersburg - Russia, Szczecin - Poland, Sassnitz - Germany, Brunsbuttel - (Kiel Canal Transit), Dover

Ship: Braemar— From **£1,029**

Canaries Collection (M1024) - 5 October 2010 for 13 nts

Dover, Funchal - Madeira, Santa Cruz de la Palma - Canary Islands, Santa Cruz de Tenerife - Canary Islands, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Arrecife - Lanzarote, Lisbon - Portugal, Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£969**

Eastern Mediterranean (L1018) - 26 October 2010 for 23 nts

Dover, Gibraltar, Cagliari - Sardinia, Kalamata - Greece, Piraeus - Greece, Volos - Greece, Izmir - Turkey, Marmaris - Turkey, Antalya - Turkey, Rhodes - Greece, Valletta - Malta, Cadiz - Spain, Lisbon - Portugal, Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,599**

Travelux Cruises

No. 1 Fred. Olsen Cruise Agent in Kent

For enquiries and reservations call:

Tel: 01580 764344

8/9 East Cross, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6AD
Fax: 01580 766139, Website: www.cruisetravelux.co.uk
Email: cruiseservices@travelux.co.uk

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Other Departures

Lima to Sydney Cruise (L110123) - 26 January 2011 for 29 nts

Fly - Callao, Peru - Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands - Rangiroa, Tuamotu Archipelago - Papeete, Tahiti - Rarotongo, Cook Islands - Crossing International Date Line - Auckland, New Zealand - Wellington, New Zealand - Akoroa, New Zealand - Dunedin, New Zealand - Sydney, Australia

Ship: Balmoral — From **£2,529**

Singapore to Southampton (L110141) - 20 March 2011 for 34 nts

Fly - Singapore - Phuket, Thailand - Cochin, India - Goa, India - Mumbai, India - Dubai, UAE - Salalah, Oman - Safaga, Egypt - Port Tewfik, Egypt - Cruise Suez Canal, Egypt - Alexandria, Egypt - Valletta, Malta - Gibraltar - Southampton

Ship: Balmoral — From **£2,419**

Travelux

Escorted Iberia Cruise

18 October 2010
8 nights on Braemar

+ £50 onboard spend or Free Parking or Transfers

Inside (I)	£529 pp
Outside (F)	£649 pp
Superior Outside (B)	£819 pp
Balcony (BC)	£859 pp
Balcony Suite (BS)	£1,219 pp
Single Inside (N)	£909 pp

Other grades available, please contact us for details

Cruise ref: M1025

Itinerary:
Dover - Lisbon, Portugal - Portimao, Portugal - Leixoes, Portugal - La Coruna, Spain - Dover

Terms and Conditions : Travelux Ltd; ABTA 61926, is acting as an agent for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines; ABTA W0637, ATOL 5016. Prices are per person based on two people sharing an Inside I grade cabin. Additional bonuses available include one of; Free transfers (Kent Region), free parking or onboard spend (per cabin). These offers are valid until 12 weeks before departure but may be withdrawn without notice and are subject to availability. All prices will be confirmed at time of booking. The contract terms and conditions of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines apply and these are provided when booking or are available in their current brochure or on their website. Every effort is made for accuracy at the time of publication, but no liability is accepted for errors or omissions.

Holiday industry cruising through troubled waters

FOR years now, the cruise business has been growing, and there is no end in sight to the expansion.

With the launch of an astonishing 10 major ships, there is no sign of the bubble bursting, said the bible for all cruise information, discovercruises.co.uk.

Despite 2009 being one of the most challenging years on record for the wider holiday market, it found the UK cruise industry is bucking the trend and continues to grow.

Interest

Figures just released at The Travel Convention in Barcelona show an impressive five per cent increase in the number of British holidaymakers taking a cruise this year, compared to 2008.

William Gibbons of the Passenger Shipping Association said a record 1.5 million Brits will have taken a cruise in 2009 and predicted further strong growth in the years ahead as consumer interest in cruising remains at an all-time high.

He said: "The difficult economic climate has made this year a very testing time for our members, but the exceptional value offered by a cruise holiday has been reflected in continued record growth.

"The two key drivers remain value and quality. The all-inclusive nature of cruising and the very high standards of quality, innovation and customer service have made cruising a compelling and mainstream holiday choice.

"This trend will continue into 2010, when we forecast a 6.5 per cent increase to 1.65 million passengers. This significant growth will come about with the introduction of new ships dedicated to the UK market – P&O Cruises' Azura, Cunard's Queen Elizabeth and Celebrity Cruises Celebrity Eclipse.

"We will also see Cruise & Maritime introduce a second ship, Ocean Countess, and Royal Caribbean International providing a year-round service from Southampton with Independence of the Seas.

"US companies are also making a commitment to the UK market, including Holland America Line who, for the first time, are introducing full-length cruises out of Dover.

Excitement

"There's now a sustained interest and excitement in cruising, which will be reinforced next month with the introduction of the largest-ever cruise ship by Royal Caribbean International with Oasis of the Seas."

A number of factors have contributed to the projected record number of passengers in 2009, including P&O Cruises' Ventura and Fred. Olsen's Balmoral both being in service for a full year.

MSC and Costa Cruises also introduced new large ships and there has been investment in the ultra-luxury sector with new ships from Yachts of Seabourn and Silversea.

Thomson, Island Cruises and Royal Caribbean have also shown strong growth as the popularity of fly-cruises continues.

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Image supplied courtesy of P&O Cruises

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From £1579p/p + £50 on board credit p/p + free parking or coach transfer to Southampton **(includes £250 early bird savings per person)**

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From £699p/p ADD ON Orient Express day trip for only **£149**

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MEDITERRANEAN 7 NIGHTS FROM ONLY £899

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FLY GATWICK - PALMA - La GOULETTE - CIVITAVECHIA - GENOA - St RAPHAEL - BARCELONA - PALMA - return flight to London Gatwick.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Prices based on 2 sharing a standard inside cabin, subject to availability and these offers cannot be combined with others nor can they be applied retrospectively

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PRICES FROM £1395 PER PERSON

Our great value price is based on the published brochure price of £1795, but includes the early booking discount of £400 per person. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy.

YOUR VIKING SHIP

The Viking Lomonosov accommodates up to 202 passengers and has a restaurant with panoramic views, observation lounge and bar. All guest cabins have private facilities and river views. The ship has English speaking staff, a doctor and hairdresser. Single cabins available.

2010 DEPARTURE DATES

Kiev to Odessa
May 2; Jun 13; Jul 4, 25; Aug 15; Sep 5

Odessa to Kiev
May 12; Jun 2, 23; Jul 14; Aug 4, 25; Sep 15; Oct 6

All departure dates and cabin grades are subject to availability.

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- Czceh Airlines return economy class scheduled flights from London Heathrow to Kiev and from Odessa to London Heathrow or vice versa. Flights are via Prague
- 10 or 11 nights full board accommodation aboard Viking Lomonosov
- 9 guided tours
- Welcome Cocktail Reception and Dinner
- Captain's Farewell Dinner
- All port and airport taxes
- Transfers as stated
- No visas required for this cruise

Your holiday is fully bonded and protected by:

YOUR HOLIDAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 Kiev
Fly from London to Kiev and transfer to your ship.

DAY 2 Kiev
Tour Kiev and explore its historic buildings and monuments, including a guided tour of St. Sophia Cathedral. After lunch, tour the Monastery of Caves.

DAY 3 Dnieper River & Kremenchuk
Take in the lovely landscapes along the Dnieper River and enjoy lunch aboard. Stop in Kremenchuk for a guided city tour.

DAY 4 Zaporozhye
Tour Zaporozhye, ancestral home of the Cossacks. See the Lenin monument, visit the Cossack museum and enjoy a special Cossack horsemanship show.

DAY 5 Kherson
A morning of scenic cruising before arriving in Kherson where you'll board a small boat and cruise the narrow canals to Fisherman's Island.

DAY 6 Sevastopol
After lunch, arrive in Sevastopol and tour the city. You can take an optional afternoon archeological tour of the ancient Greek city of Chersonese.

DAY 7 Sevastopol
Tour the Khan Palace in the Tartar city of Bachtischisarai. After lunch further explore Sevastopol, site of the famed 'Charge of the Light Brigade'.

DAY 8 Yalta
Morning tour of Yalta. Visit the White Palace on a guided tour through official halls and private apartments of the Tsar's family. Afternoon at your leisure.

DAY 9 Yalta
A full day to explore the city on your own, or take one of the optional tours available.

DAY 10 Odessa
Cruise through lunch and enjoy a half-day tour of Odessa to see the terraced hills and landscaped parks, Opera House and Potemkin steps. Optional opera in the evening.

DAY 11 Odessa
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Our 2010 River Cruise brochure is out now – you'll find a greater choice of exciting itineraries than ever before. These include two new additions to our popular rail cruise programme, Treasures of the Rhine and Danube Rhapsody.

Prices for our 2010 cruises start from £1,245 per person for a seven-night cruise including return schedule flights, full board accommodation on a deluxe Viking ship, all shore excursions and transfers.

Couples can save up to £1,000 with our early booking discounts, when booked by December 30, 2009. See our website www.vikingrivercruises.co.uk for more details or call our reservations team today on 020 8780 7900.

Sit back, relax and enjoy living life in the slow lane

Your holiday starts the minute you set foot aboard your floating hotel

FLYING is all very well, but with so many people cramped into such a tiny space eating airline food and watching a tiny TV screen for entertainment, it's no wonder more and more are looking for something new.

And by new, we mean something almost as old as transport itself – the cruise.

While many may scoff at the slow pace of actually getting anywhere, cruise lovers will be at pains to tell you that's the point.

They are designed to be relaxing – an idle way to see the whole world, and why not throw in some luxury along the way, too.

Those who have tried a cruise holiday invariably return for more of the same, and many become great fans of a particular operator.

Those who come back usually invest in longer itineraries and higher-grade accommodation, and travel to what may be more adventurous destinations, say the experts.

Often, people who have never taken a cruise will conjure up lots of excuses as to why they will not consider taking one.

Yet with today's modern and spacious ships, diverse itineraries, a multitude of dining options and ample entertainment, a cruise offers more space, interest and variety than most land-based options.

The key features of a cruise speak for themselves. These include many exciting destinations in one holiday, or the unrivalled service, plus fine dining every evening, sumptuous al fresco buffets, state-of-the-art spa facilities, exciting excursions, a different view everyday and professional entertainment for all ages.

Variety

These factors that are hard to ignore. Those in the know say no other holiday can possibly provide such variety, lifestyle and value for money.

It is not surprising that thousands of first-time cruisers book their second holiday at sea as soon as they get home.

There are ships and cruise styles to meet and exceed all expectations. Educational holidays on smaller and more intimate ships, such as those with Voyages of Discovery and Swan Hellenic, provide lectures and presentations by learned speakers, including celebrities, writers and other media personalities.

Here passengers are prepared for each port of call, so that they can make the most of their precious time ashore.

There are dozens of theme cruises that allow the traveller to enjoy their favourite hobby or interest when on the ship and ashore. These voyages often involve excursions that continue the theme.

Many couples join a cruise and go their separate ways while on board, each making the most of the diverse list of activities. Families tend to divide and branch out to pursue their varied interests, meeting later over lunch or dinner to share their new experiences.

Classical music, golf, acting, computer classes, art, cooking, photography and wine tasting are just a few of the hundreds of activities that take place during the holiday.

On a land-based holiday, the room at a hotel is normally allocated on arrival and sea views are often obstructed by vegetation, buildings or pool surroundings.

First-time cruisers are usually impressed that they are able to choose their accommodation, right down to the stateroom number, at the time of booking.

This is a great bonus, as a sea view is guaranteed from every balcony. The comprehensive deck plans found in every brochure will ensure the traveller knows exactly where they will be staying in relation to the location of the nightclub, theatre, restaurant and swimming pool.

Many people considering a cruise for the first time are concerned about the never-ending flow of food offered on a ship. Again, the quality of the dining experience, in the presentation, service standards and in the food itself must not be ignored.

No-one suggests that all five courses should be taken at dinner, especially if there is a West End-style show to be seen in the theatre.

Attending the midnight buffet is not compulsory, and the food is often photographed more than eaten.

Most of the finest and most enjoyable dining experiences focus on the high quality of the food and the immaculate presentation, rather than the quantity. Value for money is key in holidaymakers' plans. It is here that the cruise always excels.

Those who normally take a land-based holiday are advised to check exactly how much has been spent on previous trips. All those extra snacks, the seaview supplements, entertainment and sports activities soon add up.

With so many accommodation categories, it is possible to budget for a cruise more easily. Some may choose a lower category stateroom and allow more for shore excursions. Others may prefer to put money aside for the casino and hope to make a fortune, while others will want to be pampered in the spa.

Cruising allows the traveller to tailor-make their plans, making optimum use of the available budget while ensuring a unique holiday experience.

Most first-time cruisers prefer a port-intensive itinerary. These usually include just one day at sea which is often near the start of the holiday, giving the passenger time to find their way around the ship and become acquainted with the variety of services and amenities on board.

Popular

River cruises are also worth considering for those who are cautious. Not only do they offer value for money but there are often two or three calling points each day, giving plenty of opportunities for sightseeing and exploration.

Few people have returned from the Rhine, Danube or Nile without wanting to cruise again.

Coastal cruising is also popular for first timers, especially to Norway or around the British Isles. The Adriatic coast of Croatia and Montenegro is another favourite, and will not fail to impress.

Many first-time cruisers prefer the British-orientated lifestyle of P&O Cruises, Thomson Cruises or Fred. Olsen Cruise Line. Others choose a fly-cruise and combine a holiday at sea with a week or so in a Mediterranean resort before or after the cruise. This is a particularly worthwhile solution for couples or families who would prefer the best of both worlds.

Others seek the chic and often informal nature of European cruising, offered by the Italian operators MSC Cruises and Costa Cruises.

Both provide, among others, Mediterranean fly-cruises, usually from an Italian port. It is possible to sail to the North Sea and Baltic Sea with these operators from a UK port, usually Dover.

Those seeking plenty of sports and social activity may choose one of the larger Royal Caribbean Line ships. Independence of the Seas has become extremely popular among British guests, especially as there are regular sailings from Southampton.

A party atmosphere prevails, and everyone is impressed by the spectacular ice-skating shows, world-class dining and enormous variety of pool activities, especially at the wave surfing venue.

Like many operators, including Fred. Olsen Cruise Line and Cunard Line, RCL offers mini cruises, giving those considering their first holiday at sea the chance to test the experience. Many decide to book their next trip while on board. It is not long before they become cruise fans.

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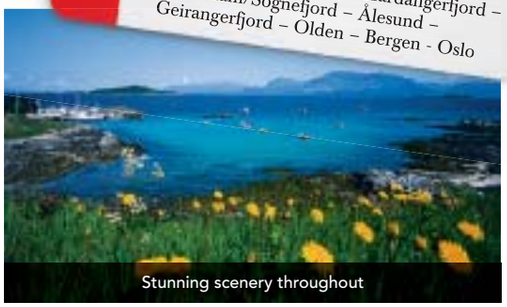
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Departing: March 24, 2010 for 14-nights onboard MV Spirit of Adventure
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Itinary

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Prize is for 2 people and includes

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The closing date is 27 November 2009

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Question: How many nights is the Dynasties of the Mediterranean cruise aboard Spirit of Adventure?

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No purchase necessary

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Alex sees benefits of learning languages

A YOUNG linguist from Kent has been chosen as an ambassador for a national campaign which promotes the importance of learning another language.

Alex Edwards, from Canterbury, was selected as part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Try Life in Another Language scheme, which aims to increase the number of 14-year-olds choosing a language at GCSE.

Alex, 20, is currently living in Paris and hopes to spend the spring in Seville in Spain.

He said: "Learning a language has helped me understand more about the British culture and I've met some amazing people from other parts of the world as a result. I believe having a language means you'll always have something extra to offer an employer."

For more information see www.trylifeinanotherlanguage.com.

Apprentices aim to get barge shipshape

A SAILING barge in Faversham is to get a much-needed makeover through a new shipwright apprenticeship scheme being supported by Swale council.

The local authority is providing a grant of £56,000 over two years to help with the training programme, set up by the Cambria Trust and run by the National Sea Training Centre.

Funding of £990,000 has also been provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the restoration of sailing barge the Cambria, which is owned by the Trust.

It was moved to Standard Quay in Faversham in 2007, where it will get a comprehensive rebuild with help from the apprentices.

The council's grant will go towards installing a classroom and workshop at the quay.

Centre offers help for jobless and students

UNEMPLOYED people in Medway are being given the help they need to get back into the workplace with the opening of a new support facility, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Medway Council's Employ Medway Advice Centre, based on Chatham High Street, officially opened its doors to the public, with representatives from Jobcentre Plus, Seeda and the Learning and Skills Council there to mark the occasion.

Staff working at the facility have already seen 1,500 people since its unofficial opening in August, with 317 registered and 105 clients provided with one-to-one employment support.

Around 100 people have also been given access to training sessions to help them find work.

Services are aimed at those who are currently unemployed, facing redundancy or graduates leaving university looking for work or training opportunities.

Training for interviews and help with CVs is available at the centre along with professional advice and guidance sessions.

Support for small businesses is provided, and help with money management is on offer.

Employers can also get free advice with recruitment and staff training, free job vacancy advertising, help in identifying suitable candidates for interview and signposting to other business support services.

PRAISE: Cllr Jane Chitty thanked all those involved in the development of the advice centre

Cllr Jane Chitty, Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, attended the official opening.

She stressed the local authority's determination to get unemployed residents into the workplace and praised all those involved in helping set up the new centre.

"Medway Council has once again demonstrated its commitment to helping get people back in work, particularly during the recession," she said.

"The Employ Medway programme is a symbol of Medway Council's continued commitment to working in partnership with key national, regional and local partners for the benefit of residents and employers in Medway.

"I thank all those involved in enabling this programme to have come to fruition and look forward to seeing it grow and derive significant benefits for Medway's economy and for those who use the service."

The centre was opened as part of the Employ North Kent programme, funded by Medway Council and Seeda, to provide information, advice and signposting to visitors. It is open daily from 10am-4pm.

For more information or help and advice contact 01634 336682 or email employmedway@medway.gov.uk.

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Richard energised after gaining place as EDF apprentice

AN APPRENTICE from Folkestone has beaten 500 others to secure a place on an EDF training programme.

Richard Port, from Lyminge, is one of 12 successful candidates chosen to become jointers, linesmen and fitters for the company.

The 23-year-old, who was previously an apprentice design engineer for a heating company, said he hopes to progress his career within EDF and gain further qualifications.

"The selection process was well organised and the training so far has given us time to settle in and get to know the other apprentices," he said.

EDF Energy Networks managing director Laurent Ferrari said: "The quality of the service we provide for our customers in the future depends on us having the right people with the right skills."

SWITCHED ON: Richard beat 500 others

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If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS347/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 27 November 2009.

saga.co.uk

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TONBRIDGE SCHOOL CENTRE FOR SPORTS & MEDIA

Tonbridge School's £11m Sports Centre provides exceptional facilities & leisure opportunities for our pupils, the community and Leisure Club Members. If you could be the driving force behind its continued success, then we would like to hear from you.

Operations Manager **up to £21k**

You will be fully experienced in sports/leisure centre operations, with proven team leadership. With an eye for detail and the very highest standards, you will be a self-starter, who can deliver whatever is thrown at you. As a member of the management team, you will thrive in a dynamic environment. Full-time, 40 hrs per week, all year round.

Closing date: **Friday, 27th November**

For an informal discussion, please contact Mat Parker, Centre Manager: 01732 304111

Further information, job description and an application form can be found at: **www.tonbridge-school.co.uk**

Applications with a full CV to: John Nash, Personnel Manager
Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, TN9 1JP
Tel: 01732 304252 e-mail: jfn@tonbridge-school.org

CRB screening required 09TSC4

BRICKLAYERS, HODDIES & FORKLIFT DRIVER

required for site in Dover for 19th October. Must have current CSCS card, also CRB checks will be required.

Please call Kim 07538 435741

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- Uniform provided
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Experience preferred but not essential.
All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check
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Assistant Manager

Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.
Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

ADMINISTRATOR

Regent Development Ltd is a Chartered Building Company acting as a service provider to most major insurance companies for Domestic insurance claims.

We are looking for another Administrator to enhance our very busy Team. Work will involve booking in new jobs/scheduling materials and operatives, organising start dates and providing a comprehensive customer service to all Clients. On the job training will be supplied, however, Computer literacy is a must in Excel/Word and Outlook as is the ability to work on your own initiative once training is complete. A knowledge of Sage would be advantageous as would previous experience within the Domestic Insurance Claims industry.

The Company offers a salary between £13,000 to £17,000 per annum dependant upon experience/28 day holiday (including Bank Holidays)/bonus system/free Healthcare upon completion of 12 months employment.

CV's to: pat.slater@regentgroup.co.uk tel: 01322 626240
Or post to:
Pat Slater, Regent Development Ltd, Unit D4 Riverside Way, Dartford, Kent DA1 5BS

Account Manager

businessforkent.co.uk
ASHFORD • £GOOD REMUNERATION

Exciting developments within the business portfolio at KOS Media has created the need to appoint a polished B2B sales professional.

Businessforkent.co.uk is *the* countywide business news source to provide daily and weekly breaking business stories, special reports, interviews and features through both its online news site and printed section in Kent on Saturday and Kent on Sunday

The new account manager will play a key role developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of account management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, creating initial contact, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within B2B media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target-related bonus, plus five weeks annual holiday.

If you believe you are a polished professional sales person looking for a challenging role, please submit your CV to Head of Department christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media
Award Winning Company

THE BREW HOUSE HOTEL

Head Housekeeper

Salary: £18,000 - £20,000

The Brew House Hotel is Tunbridge Wells' finest boutique hotel, located close to the historic Pantiles area. Our Head Housekeeper will be responsible for day to day housekeeping operations and staff to maintain the highest quality of cleanliness in all areas of the hotel, to ensure guest satisfaction. The successful candidate will have previous experience and be able to work flexible hours, including weekends.

Responsibilities include:
- **Scheduling staff to meet the needs of the business**
- **Taking a hands-on role where required**
- **Complete regular audits to ensure all standards are maintained**
- **Ensure all ordering is completed in a timely fashion**
- **Schedule preventative maintenance, ensure repairs are completed in a timely fashion and ensure deep cleaning is completed as required**
- **Undertake duty management shifts if required**

Please apply in writing to Kym Hammond, The BrewHouse Hotel, 1 Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TA or online at www.brewhousehotel.net

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After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million… and we're still growing!

We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newingreen HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits.

Permanent Roles
MI Analyst - c£25,000
Web Developer - c£22,000
Email Template Builder - c£18,000

8-Week Contracts
Infrastructure Architect - c£400 per day
Program Manager - c£400 per day
Integration Architect - c£400 per day

Interested? Please visit our recruitment website **www.holidayextras.com/jobs** for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.

TOP 50 Call Centres for Customer Service 2008 · 100 2009 · inspiration innovation people success

KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry.

We now have vacancies in our Production Department for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident and self-motivated team players, preferably with newspaper experience, who are seeking to further their career within the industry.
The individual must have relevant Mac experience, including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator.
The position involves creating visuals for customers, ad setting, including property and motors, creating classified sections and make-up of pages to be sent to our printers.
The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department.
Hours will include a Saturday or Sunday.
Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:
Personnel, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road
Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR
or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk

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Account Manager

Heart Kent

Package: Competitive + Commission + Car + Phone + Benefits

Heart in Kent is the county's largest radio station with nearly 400,000 listeners and we're over twice the size of our nearest commercial rivals. We're part of Global Radio, the UK's largest commercial radio company and we own stations like Capital FM, Classic FM and Heart.

A rare opportunity has arisen for an experienced media sales person to join one of Global Radio's most successful sales teams as an Account Manager. Based at Heart Kent's studios and offices in Whitstable, the position involves selling airtime, sponsorship and interactive properties to large clients across the county.

To apply for this position, please email your CV and covering letter to neil.webster@heart.co.uk quoting "Account Manager - Kent" in the subject field.

Closing date for applications: **18th November 2009**

In the promotion of equal opportunities, Global Radio welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Distributors required

JOIN OUR AWARD WINNING TEAM AND EARN EXTRA CASH

Opportunities are available to join our team in the Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks area.

Our distributors position is for three hours on Saturday afternoon delivering our newspapers to various outlets.

Own vehicle is required.

Rate of pay is £6.50 per hour plus mileage.

Initiative and smart appearance are the qualifications we need for you to become a representative of our award winning company.

If interested, please contact Barbara Coker on 01303 817072

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Sure Start Children's Centres Medway

Deanwood Primary School

Children and Family Services Co-ordinator
Grade: C2
Hours: 37 hours per week – 52 weeks a year
Location: Deanwood Primary School

Would you like to be part of the exciting launch of Deanwood Primary School's new Children's Centre?

We are seeking to recruit a Children and Families Co-ordinator to join our enthusiastic team as we prepare to open our brand new children's centre in April 2010.

We are looking for someone who is excited by new challenges and willing to lead a team implementing new projects for local families with young children and working in partnership with a range of local agencies.

Applicants should have:

- a Level 3 NVQ in child related and/or family care or a comparable relevant qualification.
- the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community.
- a good knowledge of the local community.
- excellent communication and leadership skills.
- the ability to maintain systems and a wide range of records and written reports.
- the aspiration for excellence in services for children and families
- a commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery and employment.
- an enthusiasm to develop good working relationships with a wide range of partners, agencies and individuals.
- a desire to keep abreast of current developments, research and best practice, and to review, evaluate and implement change accordingly.

Informal visits to the school are most welcome.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Katy Sparkes, Acting Headteacher on Tel: 01634 231901 or email office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk

Closing Date: 19th November

Interview Date: 26th November

St George's Project – Little Dragons Playgroup
Afternoons from January 2010
Qualified staff required
Call Teresa/Fran 01892 543982
info@stgeorgesproject.co.uk

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: P0651

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for somebody to lead on the major new curriculum development of a Foundation Learning Tier offer in Performing Arts; working exclusively with learners at Level 1 and 2, in the fantastic new facilities at our Medway Campus. A simple commute from London, our new campus features a purpose built theatre, designed by the award winning company 'Stage Electrics', new dance and drama facilities and music, TV and radio recording studios. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Advanced Construction and Engineering Ref: P0655

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of construction and engineering on a range of programmes. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in Construction and/or Engineering. Previous experience with the industry is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Access Lecturer Ref: P0440

Salary: £23,740 - £28,542 pro rata

10 hours per week

We are looking for an exceptional individual to teach at our Maidstone campus on the Access to Humanities and Teaching programme. The candidate will specialise in English Literature and Language and also act as Course Tutor to a cohort of adult students. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. This post will commence from January 4th 2010.

Lecturer in Beauty Ref: P0652

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Hair Ref: P0653

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

We are looking to recruit passionate individuals to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Catering Ref: P0654

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

We are looking to appoint a passionate individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Learning Support Facilitator Ref: P0666

Salary: £15,225 - £17,750 pro rata

25 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate and patient candidate to provide support to students and lecturers across all College departments in the implementation of additional needs to students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including behavioural issues.

Further Education Sports Co-Ordinator Ref: PR029

Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 pro rata

15 hours per week (Medway and Maidstone Campus)

We are looking for an individual with a proven track record in Sports Development and the Further Education sector, to play a key role in increasing participation towards the 5 hour offer in sport and physical activity for young people aged 16-19yrs. This will entail the coordination and further development of the college's pathways and support, contributing to the development of the healthy college award and the cross-college activity programme, including outdoor pursuits and active leisure initiatives. As part of the Sports team, the ideal candidate will have excellent communication and leadership skills. Experience of working with young people and liaising with a wide range of organisations including schools within the three school sports partnerships, sports clubs and sports governing bodies is desirable.

Closing date: 20 November 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investors in People

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

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Hugh Christie Technology College
White Cottage Road
Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4PU

Learning Technician

Salary range £13619 - £15440 pro rota

Full time, 29 hours per week, term time only
The post will involve supporting student learning when teachers are absent. No previous experience is necessary, but enthusiasm and the ability to get along with young people are essential. Grade 'C' qualification in English and Maths preferable.

For more information about the college and to download an application form visit www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk. Alternatively contact Jenny Rutherford on 01732 353544 Ext. 240.

Closing date: Friday 20th November 2009.

Appointment will be conditional on successful pre-employment and CRB checks.

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SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EARN EXTRA AS A SUPPLY LECTURER.

Whatever your skill, trade or talent, you could join South Kent College as a Supply Lecturer. From campuses in Ashford, Dover and Folkestone, we provide learning and training opportunities to over 10,000 local people every year. Helping us are skilled individuals like you, who lecture part-time on everything from hairdressing to catering, plumbing to child care. So, perhaps you're self-employed with some extra time to spare. Maybe you're retired, and you'd like to give something back. Whatever your background, we'd be interested to talk to you at our Recruitment Open Evening. For details visit **www.skcrecruitment.co.uk**

OPEN EVENING
5pm - 8pm
ASHFORD on
November 17th

SKC South Kent College
ASHFORD › DOVER › FOLKESTONE

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Accountancy

Finance Assistant

Ashford
Salary: £15,607 - £18,433
Closing Date: Wednesday 18 November 2009
Finance Assistant Ref: P0606 Salary - £15,607 - £18,433 We are looking to recruit an exceptional individual to assist the smooth running of the Finance department. The successful candidate will have experience working in Accounts Payable and will be able to demonstrate excellent IT skills, including a sound understanding of Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of accounting packages, Purchase Ledger and Nominal Ledgers would be advantageous. Closing Date: Wednesday 18 November 2009 MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0606
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary: TBC
Closing Date: 28/11/09
Full-time/ Part-time/Jobshare Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre.The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately. Administrator and PA to Doctor of a rapidly expanding health care practice. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Basic computer skills are preferable: Proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient Work well solo • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success
To apply/more information:
Practice Manager
Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary: negotiable
Closing Date: 28/11/09
FULL-TIME OR JOBSHARE can you Provide excellent service "Walt Disney style"? Are you • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient • Work well solo • Work well within a team • Thrive on self improvement and success? Then we have the job for you!! We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics). Basic computer skills are preferable. No experience necessary as full training will be given. Apply for this position if you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing. If you think you have what we are looking for, please apply in writing with your CV to: Practice Manager, The Wellness Practice Ltd, Blean, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 9EB.
To apply/more information:
Practice Manager
Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: cust 001
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

ACCOUNTS- ADMIN. ASSISTANT

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Full-time bi-lingual (English / French) ACCOUNTS- ADMIN. ASSISTANT We are a small well established and successful Wine Agency representing mainly French Wine Producers selling to the Japanese market Due to imminent retirement of current post holder, we are looking to recruit an adaptable and conscientious person to take charge of all our accounts office procedures, as well helping out with other office functions as necessary Computer literacy and attention to detail essential Salary according to ability and experience Please e-mail C.V. to : contact@bmwines.co.uk or call 01233-650954 for more information
To apply/more information:
B M Wines Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233-650954
Email contact@bmwines.co.uk

ADMINISTRATOR

Dartford
Salary: £13,000 to £17,000 per annum
ADMINISTRATOR Regent Development Ltd is a Chartered Building Company acting as a service provider to most major insurance companies for Domestic insurance claims. We are looking for another Administrator to enhance our very busy Team. Work will involve booking in new jobs/scheduling materials and operatives, organising start dates and providing a comprehensive customer service to all Clients. On the job training will be supplied, however, Computer literacy is a must in Excel/Word and Outlook as is the ability to work on your own initiative once training is complete. A knowledge of Sage would be advantageous as would previous experience within the Domestic Insurance Claims industry. The Company offers a salary between £13,000 to £17,000 per annum dependant upon experience/28 day holiday (including Bank Holidays)/bonus system/free Healthcare upon completion of 12 months employment. CV's to:pat.slater@regentgroup.co.uk tel: 01322 626240 Or post to: Pat Slater, Regent Development Ltd, Unit D4 Riverside Way Dartford, Kent DA1 5BS
To apply/more information:
Regent Development Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 626240
Email pat.slater@regentgroup.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

GENERAL INSURANCE AND OUTBOUND SALES

Folkestone
Salary: OTE £16 - £18k+
Closing Date: 27 November 2009
OPPORTUNITIES IN GENERAL INSURANCE AND OUTBOUND SALES Basic salary of £10,856 - £13,000 • OTE £16 - £18k+ (basic salary and uncapped commission) Excellent benefits packages | Folkestone and Thanet It's real people we are after people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a real rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over. And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives. What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job. The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure. If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS347/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources @saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.
Closing Date: 27 November 2009. saga.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Saga Quoting Job Ref: SVS347/KOS
Tel: 01303 774888
Email human.resources @saga.co.uk

Domestic

Weekend Domestic

Faversham
Salary: TBA
Residential Home in Faversham Require Weekend Domestic 9-2pm Tel: between 9 & 4 for further details 01795 532629
To apply/more information:
Carnalea Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 532629
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Cleaners

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home Require Full time and part time carers Day and night And Cleaners Full time and part time For more information Please call – Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Leafleters

Kent
Salary: TBA
Leafleters Wanted Cash Paid Part-time/ Flexible Hours Call 01342 325 852
To apply/more information:
Nationwide Cleaners SouthEast
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01342 325 852
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Cleaners

Kent
Salary: £8 Per Hour
Cleaners Wanted £8 Per Hour Cash Part-time, Daytime Call Dermot 01342 325 852
To apply/more information:
Nationwide Cleaners SouthEast
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01342 325 852
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Chamber Person

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Yorke Lodge Guest House Canterbury require CHAMBER PERSON To make beds & clean bathrooms Sunday 8am to noon Tel: 01227 451243
To apply/more information:
Yorke Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 451243
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Lecturer in Motor Vehicle Engineering

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: £23,760 - £32,666 pa
Closing Date: 12noon on 19th November 2009
A rewarding role in a developing college Lecturer in Motor Vehicle Engineering £23,760 - £32,666 pa Tunbridge Wells Teaching on a range of courses within this developing curriculum area, you will ensure that every student receives the support they need to achieve their potential. Excellent communication skills are essential, combined with an up-to-date knowledge of the motor vehicle industry. You must also be a good team player preferably with teaching or training experience. A relevant teaching qualification would be ideal. This College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our users and expects all staff to share this commitment, in order for all to achieve their full potential. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and to provide proof of your right to work in the UK. To find out more, view our full list of opportunities and apply online, visit www.wkc.ac.uk Alternatively call 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk Please quote ref: KOS12 **Closing Date:** 12noon on 19th November 2009
To apply/more information:
West Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: KOS12
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Learning Technician

Tonbridge
Salary: £13,619 - £15,440 pro rota
Closing Date: Friday 20th November 2009
Hugh Christie Technology College, White Cottage Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 4PU Learning Technician Salary range £13,619 - £15,440 pro rota Full time, 29 hours per week, term time only The post will involve supporting student learning when teachers are absent. No previous experience is necessary, but enthusiasm and the ability to get along with young people are essential. Grade 'C' qualification in English and Maths preferable. For more information about the college and to download an application form visit www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk. Alternatively contact Jenny Rutherford on 01732 353544 Ext. 240.Closing Date: Friday 20th November 2009. Appointment will be conditional on successful pre-employment and CRB checks.
To apply/more information:
Hugh Christie Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 353544 Ext. 240
Email jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk

Children and Family Services Co-ordinator

Medway
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 19th November
Deanwood Primary School Children and Family Services Co-ordinator Grade: C2 Hours: 37 hours per week – 52 weeks a year Location: Deanwood Primary School Would you like to be part of the exciting launch of Deanwood Primary School's new Children's Centre? We are seeking to recruit a Children and Families Co-ordinator to join our enthusiastic team as we prepare to open our brand new children's centre in April 2010. We are looking for someone who is excited by new challenges and willing to lead a team implementing new projects for local families with young children and working in partnership with a range of local agencies. Applicants should have: - a Level 3 NVQ in child related and/or family care or a comparable relevant qualification. - the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community. - a good knowledge of the local community. - excellent communication and leadership skills. - the ability to maintain systems and a wide range of records and written reports. - the aspiration for excellence in services for children and families - a commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery and employment. - an enthusiasm to develop good working relationships with a wide range of partners, agencies and individuals. - a desire to keep abreast of current developments, research and best practice, and to review, evaluate and implement change accordingly. Informal visits to the school are most welcome. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Katy Sparkes, Acting Headteacher on Tel: 01634 231901 or email office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk
Closing Date: 19th November
Interview Date: 26th November
To apply/more information:
Deanwood Primary Ed. Technology School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 231901
Email office@deanwood .medway.sch.uk

Lecturer in Performing Arts

Medway
Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum
Closing Date: 20 November 2009
Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: P0651 **Salary:** £25,895 - £29,622 per annum We are looking for somebody to lead on the major new curriculum development of a Foundation Learning Tier offer in Performing Arts; working exclusively with learners at Level 1 and 2, in the fantastic new facilities at our Medway Campus. A simple commute from London, our new campus features a purpose built theatre, designed by the award winning company 'Stage Electrics', new dance and drama facilities and music, TV and radio recording studios. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0651
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Advanced Construction and Engineering

Medway
Salary: £20,700 - £26,395
Lecturer in Advanced Construction and Engineering Ref: P0655 **Salary:** £20,700 - £26,395 We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of construction and engineering on a range of programmes. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in Construction and/or Engineering. Previous experience with the industry is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0655
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Access Lecturer

Medway
Salary: £23,740 - £28,542pro rata Access Lecturer **Salary:** £23,740 - £28,542pro rata Ref: P0440 10 hours per week We are looking for an exceptional individual to teach at our Maidstone campus on the Access to Humanities and Teaching programme. The candidate will specialise in English Literature and Language and also act as Course Tutor to a cohort of adult students. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. This post will commence from January 4th 2010. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0440
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Beauty

Medway
Salary: £20,700 - £26,395
Lecturer in Beauty Ref: P0652 **Salary:** £20,700 - £26,395 The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0652
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Hair

Medway
Salary: £20,700 – £26,395
Lecturer in Hair Ref: P0653 **Salary:** £20,700 – £26,395 We are looking to recruit passionate individuals to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0653
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Catering

Medway
Salary: £20,700 - £26,395
Lecturer in Catering Ref: P0654 **Salary:** £20,700 - £26,395 We are looking to appoint a passionate individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0654
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Learning Support Facilitator

Medway
Salary: £15,225 - £17,750 pro rata
Closing Date: 20 November 2009
Learning Support Facilitator Ref: P0666 **Salary:** £15,225 - £17,750 pro rata 25 hours per week We are looking for a passionate and patient candidate to provide support to students and lecturers across all College departments in the implementation of additional needs to students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including behavioural issues. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0666
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Further Education Sports Co-Ordinator

Maidstone
Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 pro rata
Closing Date: 20 November 2009
Further Education Sports Co-Ordinator Ref: PR029 Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 pro rata 15 hours per week (Medway and Maidstone Campus) We are looking for an individual with a proven track record in Sports Development and the Further Education sector, to play a key role in increasing participation towards the 5 hour offer in sport and physical activity for young people aged 16-19yrs. This will entail the coordination and further development of the college's pathways and support, contributing to the development of the healthy college award and the cross-college activity programme, including outdoor pursuits and active leisure initiatives. As part of the Sports team, the ideal candidate will have excellent communication and leadership skills. Experience of working with young people and liaising with a wide range of organisations including schools within the three school sports partnerships, sports clubs and sports governing bodies is desirable. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: PR029
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Technician /Receptionist

Medway
Salary: £15,225 - £17,750
Technician/Receptionist Ref: P0668 **Salary:** £15,225 - £17,750 The ideal candidate will be able to provide technical and administrative support to staff and students and will be responsible for setting-up and providing classroom support and assist the smooth running of the department reception. Experience in the industry would be advantageous. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call

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the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0668
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Operations Manager

Tonbridge
Salary: Up to £21,000
Closing Date: Friday, 27th November
Tonbridge School's £11m Sports Centre provides exceptional facilities & leisure opportunities for our pupils, the community and Leisure Club Members. If you could be the driving force behind its continued success, then we would like to hear from you. Operations Manager up to £21k You will be fully experienced in sports/leisure centre operations, with proven team leadership. With an eye for detail and the very highest standards, you will be a self-starter, who can deliver whatever is thrown at you. As a member of the management team, you will thrive in a dynamic environment. Full-time, 40 hrs per week, all year round. Closing Date: Friday, 27th November For an informal discussion, please contact Mat Parker, Centre Manager: 01732 304111 Further information, job description and an application form can be found at: www.tonbridge-school.co.uk Applications with a full CV to: John Nash, Personnel Manager Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, TN9 1JP Tel: 01732 304252 e-mail: jfn@tonbridge-school.org CRB screening required
To apply/more information:
Tonbridge School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 304252
Email jfn@tonbridge-school.org

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

MI Analyst

Folkestone
Salary: c£25,000
We are a dynamic team where you can really make your mark We get results in our state of the art building set in landscaped gardens and can offer a vibrant atmosphere and excellent opportunities to make a difference. We unleash the enthusiasm and expertise of our people and have won the Sunday Times "Best Companies to work for" award four times. After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million… and we're still growing! We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newingreen HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits. Interested? Please visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.
To apply/more information:
Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Web Developer

Folkestone
Salary: c£22,000
We are a dynamic team where you can really make your mark…. We get results in our state of the art building set in landscaped gardens and can offer a vibrant atmosphere and excellent opportunities to make a difference. We unleash the enthusiasm and expertise of our people and have won the Sunday Times "Best Companies to work for" award four times. After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million… and we're still growing! We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newingreen HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits. Interested? Please visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.
To apply/more information:
Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Infrastructure Architect

Folkestone
Salary: c£400 per day
8 Week Contract We are a dynamic team where you can really make your mark…. We get results in our state of the art building set in landscaped gardens and can offer a vibrant atmosphere and excellent opportunities to make a difference. We unleash the enthusiasm and expertise of our people and have won the Sunday Times "Best Companies to work for" award four times. After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million… and we're still growing! We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newingreen HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits. Interested? Please visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.
To apply/more information:
Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Program Manager

Folkestone
Salary: c£400 per day
We are a dynamic team where you can really make your mark…. We get results in our state of the art building set in landscaped gardens and can offer a vibrant atmosphere and excellent opportunities to make a difference. We unleash the enthusiasm and expertise of our people and have won the Sunday Times "Best Companies to work for" award four times. After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million… and we're still growing! We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newingreen HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits. Interested? Please visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.
To apply/more information:
Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Integration Architect

Folkestone
Salary: c£400 per day
We are a dynamic team where you can really make your mark…. We get results in our state of the art building set in landscaped gardens and can offer a vibrant atmosphere and excellent opportunities to make a difference. We unleash the enthusiasm and expertise of our people and have won the Sunday Times "Best Companies to work for" award four times. After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million… and we're still growing! We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newingreen HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits. Interested? Please visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.
To apply/more information:
Holiday Extras
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Wait staff

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Wait staff wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate. Experience essential. Must be able to work weekends and evenings. Please send CV to info@ageandsons.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Assistant Golf Professional

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Assistant Golf Professional and Golf Retailer required for busy private club with floodlit driving range. Duties include teaching, playing, together with some shop work. Experience preferred but not essential as full training can be given to the right person. Applicants should be outgoing, enthusiastic and pro-active. Apply: Paul Everard and Danny Maude, Canterbury Golf Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1TW. Tel: 01227 462865
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Golf Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 462865
Email paul.everard@ foremostgolf.com

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing Officer

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Canterbury City Council needs a Marketing Officer Apply online at www.canterbury. gov.uk/jobs
To apply/more information:
Canterbury City Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Owner drivers

Medway
Salary: TBA
Owner drivers required with bikes, small vans, transits, sprinters, and 7.5T Lorries\Box Truck with Tail Gate to carry out same day deliveries nationwide and European for a local transport company. Excellent rates of pay immediate start, please call Kirit on 0844 335 6919 Visit www.transoluk.com
To apply/more information:
Transol Worldwide Logistics Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 335 6919
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Comminity Care Workers

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
We require part time or full time Comminity Care Workers for Ashford and the Marsh. Applicants must have their own vehicle. We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends. We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates. Fax No. 01797 367493
To apply/more information:
Country Folk Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01797 361889
Email countryfolkcare@ hotmail.co.uk

Saturday Night Carer

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
BETHANY LODGE CARE HOME Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch Requires A Saturday Night Carer, 8pm – 8am To join our team of professionals caring for young people with disabilities Rewarding and friendly environment, Enhanced rates for NVQ Tel: 01303 872289 for more information And application form All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 Subject to satisfactory CRB Check
To apply/more information:
Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email cumbriahouse@ ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk

Registered Nurse

Romney Marsh
Salary: £146.90 per night
Bethany Lodge, Dymchurch Requires. Registered Nurse Friday Night duty To join our team in caring for 24 physically disabled adults. £146.90 per night 8pm to 8am Please tel: 01303 872289 for further details and application form.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Full time and part time carers

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home Require Full time and part time carers Day and night And Cleaners Full time and part time For more information Please call – Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

COMMUNITY CARERS

Kent
Salary: TBA
MERIDIAN CARE require COMMUNITY CARERS FANCY A CHANGE IN CAREER THAT IS REWARDING? All shifts required, especially evenings and weekends in Canterbury and Dover Full training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement paid for NVQ qualification. Mileage paid. Please contact Sharon for further details. For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300 For Dover call 01304 240424 or email meridiancbury@aol.com
To apply/more information:
Meridian Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 712300
Email meridiancbury@aol.com

Experienced HCA's

Dover
Salary: £7.40 – £12.00 per hour
Urgently Required Experienced HCA's for evening work (7pm – 9pm) in Dover. Supporting a client with complex needs in their own home, long term placement. Recent clinical experience essential, NVQ2 desirable. Pay rate £7.40 – £12.00 per hour Call us now on: 01892 540 866 tunbridge@bna.co.uk | www.bna.co.uk
To apply/more information:
British Nursing Association
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 540 866
Email tunbridge@bna.co.uk

Registered General Nurse

Ashford
Salary: TBA
RGN We require a Registered General Nurse to cover maternity leave until August 2010. House of work will be Wednesday & Thursday nights from 8pm to 8am. Must be able to work unsupervised on own initiative. Experience of working with the elderly preferred. For more information, please contact the Registered Manager, Mrs E. Obousy on 01233 666768 Or e-mail singletonghome@madasafish.com
To apply/more information:
Singleton Nursing Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 666768
Email singletonghome@ madasafish.com

Care Assistants

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
The Old Rectory, Dymchurch Require Care Assistants Experience not essential as full training will be given to MVQ standards Week Days and weekend shifts Good rates of pay, good working atmosphere. To join our friendly team phone Janette on 01303 874470, or email oldrec@btconnect.com for more details and an application form. This will be subject to an Enhanced Criminal Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
Old Rectory (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 874470
Email oldrec@btconnect.com

SELF-EMPLOYED HOMECARE SUPPORT WORKERS

Tonbridge
Salary: £8.25 to £10.00 per hour SELF-EMPLOYED HOMECARE SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED IN TONBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS AND PADDOCK WOOD o £8.25 to £10.00 per hour oFull-time and Part-time hours available o You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own o Must have own car and phone Uniform provided o Full Training programme available Experience preferred but not essential. All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check CALL ELAINE/JULIA ON 01892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW www.terrablu.co.uk An Investor in People Employer
To apply/more information:
TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foord@ terrablu.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales People

Kent
Salary: TBA
Black Tie Foods Ltd Sales People required No experience necessary. Full training and vehicle provided. Call 01732 760484
To apply/more information:
Black Tie Foods Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 760484
Email blacktie@btconnect.com

Direct Sales Agents

Kent
Salary: £75k OTE
Red hot leads. White hot sales. Direct Sales Agents | £75k OTE + great prizes and incentives In sales, you need quality leads to be successful. That's why we invest in excess of £5 million PA on advertising, drawing people to our exceptional showrooms where qualified appointments are made for you. Our fantastic reputation is built upon 30 years of fitting luxury kitchens with top-notch service. You don't need experience, just the desire and hunger to succeed. We'll provide you with all the rest. To find out more please call Gary Weston on 01708 864684 gary.weston@mkdh.co.uk Car and telephone essential. www.moben.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Homeform Group Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01708 864684
Email gary.weston@mkdh.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

REFRACTIVE CONSULTANTS LIMITED
Company No. 05512112
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH on Wednesday 2nd December 2009 at 12.00 noon for the purpose provided for in Section 98 et seq. of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Ian Yerrill, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH will, during the period before the date of the Meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they reasonably require.
Dated this 5th day of November 2009
Wayne Crewe-Brown, Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
FOOTPATH MR598 KINGS HILL
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2009

The above named Order (hereinafter referred to as the Order) was made on 10 November 2009. The effect of the Order will be to divert that part of the public footpath MR598 at Kings Hill, which commences at point B (NGR TQ 6691 5447) and runs in a south westerly direction for approximately 11 metres to point C (NGR TQ 6690 5446) to a new length of footpath numbered MR598, with a width of 1.7 metres commencing at point B (NGR TQ 6691 5447) and running in a south westerly direction for approximately 14 metres to point D (NGR TQ 6690 5446) all as shown on the Order Plan.
All directions are general and all distances approximate.
A copy of the Order and plan have been placed on deposit along with an Explanatory Statement and may be inspected free of charge during normal office hours at the Council's offices at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling. Copies of the Order and plan may be purchased.
Any representations or objections to the Order may be sent in writing to the Chief Solicitor at the address below and should arrive not later than 14 December 2009 and should state the grounds on which they are made. If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.
David Hughes, Chief Executive
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council,
Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4LZ
Dated 10 November 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following application has been submitted to the Council and is being advertised for the reason given.

TM/09/02658/FL – Cattery At Nutley Farm 45 Barming Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent – Ms Loulia Baxi is applying for change of use of part of garden land to cattery (42 pens) (Retrospective for retention of cattery buildings). Reason: DEPART

Reason for the case being publicised:

DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan
These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 6 December 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
15 November 2009

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A2042 FAVERSHAM ROAD, ASHFORD) (PUFFIN CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to install a Puffin Crossing on A2042 Faversham Road, Ashford, 100.0 metres northwest of the mid point of its junction with Grosvenor Road.

Following a number of recent personal injury crashes involving child pedestrians on the A2042 Faversham Road outside the Towers School, a request has been received for a formal pedestrian crossing to be constructed. It is therefore proposed to install a Puffin crossing between the property boundaries of "Talverne" and "Bon Abri". The kerbline on the western side is to be widened, to provide pedestrians with ample space to wait to cross. Dropped kerbs and tactile paving will be installed as well as pedestrian guard railing which will prevent pedestrians from running directly on to the crossing from the school entrance.

Copies of the plan showing this proposal can be inspected during normal working hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL and Boughton Aulph Parish Council Offices, 6 Longfield, Roman Road, Aldington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7DP.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(GAS STREET, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic along the whole length of Gas Street, Canterbury on or after 30 November 2009 for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Castle Street, Rosemary Lane and Church Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
KNOLE ROAD, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Knole Road, Dartford at Southern exit on to Shepherds Lane.

The Order will become effective on 16th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Knole Road, Chastilian Road, Princes Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works to prevent future flooding.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Dover from as described in column 1 of the attached schedule on or after 1 December 2009 for an estimated period of as described in column 3 of the attached schedule or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described by the "diversion" line below.

Road Name:	Priory Road
Extent:	Between Folkestone Road and Ladywell
Dates:	1 December 2009 for two nights
Diversion:	York Street, Townwall Street, Woolcomber street, Castle Hill Road, Connaught Road, Park Avenue, Park Street, Park Place and Ladywell

Road Name:	Effingham Street, Dover
Extent:	Whole length
Dates:	1 December 2009 for two nights
Diversion:	Dover District Council (Various Roads, Dover) (Consolidation of Waiting Restrictions and One Way Traffic etc) Order 1990 Schedule 14 is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order

Road Name:	Effingham Cresent, Dover
Extent:	Whole length
Dates:	1 December 2009 for two nights
Diversion:	Dover District Council (Various Roads, Dover) (Consolidation of Waiting Restrictions and One Way Traffic etc) Order 1990 Schedule 14 is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order

Road Name:	Sandwich Road, Whitfield
Extent:	Between Beauxfield and A2 roundabout
Dates:	2 December 2009 for seven nights
Diversion:	A2, A256 and Sandwich Road

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(EFFINGHAM STREET, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of traffic calming measures, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Effingham Street, Dover from the junction with Saxon Street, on or after 7 December 2009, for an estimated period of 4 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be: eastbound via Norman Street; westbound via Norman Street, Priory Road, Ladywell, Park Street, Maison Dieu Road, Pencester Road, Biggin Street, Priory Road and Folkestone Road.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in Effingham Street between the junctions of Norman Street and Folkestone Road to allow traffic to exit from Saxon Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
MAPLETON ROAD, WESTERHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Mapleton Road, Westerham between Chartwell House to its Junction with Hosey Common Road .

The Order will become effective on 16th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 18th November 2009 and last 17 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: B2026 Hosey Common Road, B269 Sprout Lane and Pootings Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new duct laying for BT

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BARR ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Barr Road, Gravesend between its junctions with Thong Lane to Forge Lane.

The Order will become effective on 16th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 17th November 2009 and last 5 days between 08.00 – 18.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Forge Lane, Rochester Way and Thong Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate strengthening surfacing scheme

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
ALANBROOKE, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Alanbrooke, Gravesend at its junction with Haig Gardens to the end of the Road.

The Order will become effective on 16th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(STATION ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (ONE WAY) ORDER 2009 (CYCLE LANE) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the effect of which would be to install a contra flow cycle lane on the one way section of Station Road, Maidstone.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide a link between the two existing cycle routes within Maidstone Town Centre, which will remove the lack of continuity that is causing confusion and conflict for cyclists using the route.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the locations of the cycle lanes may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Office, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 1XX, Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

Anyone wishing to support, or object to this proposal should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1286000" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 7th December 2009.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BAYHAM ROAD, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Bayham Road, Sevenoaks outside number 82.

The Order will become effective on 16th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 17th November 2009 and last 5 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Vine Court Road, Avenue Road, Dartford Road, St Johns Hill and Quakers Hall Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate electrical maintenance works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HEVER ROAD, HEVER (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Hever Road, Hever 500m from Hever Golf Club.

The Order will become effective on 30th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: B2027 Clinton Lane, B2027 Four Elms Road, B2026 High Street Edenbridge, Hever Road Edenbridge and Hever Road Hever.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate bank stabilization and patching works

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ALMSHOUSE ROAD AND HEEL ROAD, THROWLEY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works to move overhead power cables and install new electrical supplies, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Almshouse Road and Heel Road, Throwley, on or after 17 November 2009, for an estimated period of up to 5 weeks or until the works are complete.

Almshouse Road will be closed between Mill House and Forge House from 17 November for up to three weeks. There will no access for through traffic between the junctions of Pettfield Hill Road and Throwley Road. The alternative route will be via Almshouse Road, Housefield Road and Throwley Road.

Heel Road will be closed in the vicinity of Heel Farm from 8 December for up to 9 days. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Housefield Road and Cross Lane. The alternative route will be via Housefield Road, Almshouse Road and Cross Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FEATHERBED LANE, SELLING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because the installation of anti Badger fencing and verge strimming works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Featherbed Lane approximately mid way along the lane, on or after 30 November 2009 for an estimated duration of two hours during the off peak period or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Featherbed Lane, Selling Road and the road known locally as Hogben's Hill.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FLETE ROAD, MARGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because soakaway cleansing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Flete Road, Margate at various locations near Bedima on or after 16 November 2009 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Vincent Road, Manston Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CANTERBURY ROAD, WESTGATE-ON-SEA) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, on the westbound carriageway in the vicinity of the speed safety camera, on or after 30 November 2009. This is for an estimated period of 2 nights, between the hours of 7.00 pm and 1.00 am.

The alternative route for westbound through traffic will be via Minster Road, Shottendane Road, Manston Road and Park Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PRIORY ROAD, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Priory Road, Ramsgate for its entire length on or after 30 November 2009 for an estimated period of two nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Paragon, Addington Street, West Cliff Road and Royal Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 30 November 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FORD LANE, WROTHAM HEATH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ford Lane between Wrotham Water Road and Addington Lane on or after Monday 16th November 2009 for a period of up to 10 working days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via A20 London Road, Trottiscliffe Road, Addington Lane and for southbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to slip line a new water main through the existing main. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Brendan MacLellan on 01634 873902.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SMALLBRIDGE ROAD, HORSMONDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Smallbridge Road, Horsmonden between Brick Kiln Lane and Smallbridge Cottages on or after Tuesday 17th November 2009 for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for eastbound traffic via Brick Kiln Lane, Goudhurst Road, Ballards Hill, B2079 North Road, Lidwells Lane and for westbound traffic vice versa.

EDF apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to repair and install a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01474 573831.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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Telephone (01227) 281818

Zorro co-exists with the Miser

FirstDrive

by STEVELOADER

Seat Ibiza Cupra Bocanegra & Leon Ecomotive

WE SAY appearances can be deceptive, and ask what's in a name? Both phrases apply to contrasting additions to Seat's sporting Ibiza supermini line-up.

Sitting at the top of the range for performance is the new Zorro-masked Bocanegra version of the Ibiza Cupra hot hatch, while its antithesis is the miserly Ecomotive.

The latter is perhaps the most surprising because Seat – the Spanish arm of VW – pitches itself as an affordable sporting brand, using the brand strapline 'Auto Emocion' and yet it has just produced what may be the best eco-friendly car on the market.

Leaving aside fuel-sipping records already held by the Ecomotive (inset) – it set 120mpg on its latest epic – real world driving should still average around 75mpg and it qualifies for road tax exemption with just 98g/km of CO2 emissions.

And yet while the car's name and its noticeably blanked off grille – part of the wind-cheating, economy-enhancing package – suggest a hair shirt driving experience, the Ecomotive is actually pleasant to drive.

There is no Noddy car cornering on skinny tyres or asthmatic performance from a weedy engine and hopelessly optimistic gear ratios; the Ecomotion actually works.

The 80PS (79bhp) 1.4-litre diesel feels weighty up front yet pulls well to take the Ibiza miser to 62mph in a respectable 13 seconds.

True, the three-cylinder can sound buzzy, but maximising power through a precise five-speed manual 'box can be fun since the three or five-door Ecomotive – priced at £12,355 and £12,755 respectively – still has the impressive Ibiza chassis.

Compared to some eco-warriors, it's also not that much more expensive than an equivalent from the standard range – you will pay about £850 extra for this sporting economist.

And while your head may have persuaded you into an Ecomotion, your heart can bask in the reflected glory of the Bocanegra. Like the Ecomotion though, the car's appearance doesn't quite go with its character.

For the £16,695 Bocanegra (main picture) is that all too rare beast: a useable everyday car that just happens to have beefy hot hatch looks, power and handling.

Petrolheads may argue the toss, but who really wants to have their kidneys and fillings shaken all the time just for occasional exhilaration?

Seat hints at the car's lightness of touch by offering it only – at least for now – with the Cupra powertrain: a 180PS (178bhp) 1.4-litre turbocharged and supercharged petrol engine paired with a new seven-speed version of the VW twin-clutch DSG auto 'box.

This fits that everyday character I mentioned, turning the hairy-chested Bocanegra into a docile city car. Out on the open road though, gears can be selected manually and swiftly using the floor-mounted change or F1 paddle shifts. On-road poise and feedback is excellent and it really is as much fun as it is easy to live with.

Those dramatic Bocanegra add-ons – the masked front, honeycomb meshing, prominent alloys and big trapezoidal exhaust – underline the car's ultimate ability though.

Why Bocanegra? It means 'black mouth' in Spanish and was coined for a sporting Seat built from 1975-79 using Fiat underpinnings and a coupe body courtesy of NSU – later absorbed into Audi – and distinguished by an all-black front end.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Matthew Beech

Hot Honda's 'coals to Newcastle' story

IN a classic coals to Newcastle/sand to the Arabs tale, Honda has started exporting its British-built Civic Type-R three-door hot hatch to Japan.

The marque's home market has been desperate to get the futuristic looking scorcher (see Star Drive on Motors TV at www.carsforkent.co.uk) following successful launches in two other right-hand drive markets, Australia and South Africa, earlier this year.

The three and five-door Civic body styles were originally conceived as European and UK only models, but the Type-R's mix of the free-revving 199bhp i-VTEC engine, tenacious grip and radical styling has caught the imagination of Honda fans across the globe.

Many commentators had criticised the Type-R as less fun to drive than its lighter predecessor, but this latest move shows the current car has far more style and kerb appeal.

'Niche-buster' glides into showrooms

PEUGEOT'S new 3008 crossover is now in showrooms to attack Nissan's highly successful Qashqai.

With its classy blend of MPV, SUV and family hatch styling and load-carrying versatility the French newcomer is a clever 'niche-buster'.

And while there is no actual 4x4 option for now – unlike the Nissan – a clever hybrid with electric motors powering the rear wheels is due in a year or so and there is also a cost-effective £450 Grip Control feature on the current line-up.

This advanced traction control system, allied to special mud and snow tyres, mimics the powers of a modest 4x4 or 'soft roader' when towing or tackling trickier conditions.

Peugeot demonstrated its power with a glider launch stunt (see video on Motors TV at www.carsforkent.co.uk) requiring serious pulling power.

Prices for the new 3008 range: £15,995-21,895.

Samba gives way to Tempest

KIA launched the funky Soul earlier this year with a range of 'Originals' – limited edition versions of the crossover.

The Korean brand also vowed to refresh the Originals line-up regularly to make the most of the distinctive car's lines; the first change is the new Soul Tempest (from £12,845), which replaces the Samba.

The Tempest comes in Titanium Silver with black high-gloss bumper inserts and door mirrors, black 18-inch alloys and Kia's reversing camera inset within the rear view mirror.

The Soul range starts from £10,775.

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Final payment ^	£2,623.75	Mileage per annum	6,000	11.9% APR	

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Welcome to a new Jazz age

by **STEVE LOADER**

HONDA has a new British-built Jazz, but resisted too much improvisation on a much-loved theme.

On the other hand, while the new generation seems familiar there is much more to like, particularly the sharper styling for this supermini/MPV.

And this will be key to sales this time: 60 per cent of buyers for the 2002 original were aged 56-75, but Honda now wants younger buyers and could clean up – half of Jazz customers buy another and its reliability/customer satisfaction and low depreciation records are impressive.

It could be the right car too, as people look to economise and downsize without loss of space in the face of higher fuel and tax.

They may also like the new 'buy British' proposition, as the Jazz is now built at Honda's Swindon plant.

The new car looks lower and wider with much visual work done simply by double-creasing the bonnet to reverse the pinching effect of the single line on the old car.

The interior was never poor, but looks a class above while the 'magic' rear seats have been refined and carried over; the bases can be flipped up for extra stowage on the floor and with both sides fastened back you could even load a bike crossways.

The backs also fold down in the conventional way to create a cavernous load area.

Other nips and tucks are better visibility out of the front quarterlight area, standard fit height adjustment on the driver's seat – it might be supermini-size, but you can now have a higher MPV-style driving position – and further improvement to the ride quality.

It remains firmly sprung, but delivers impressive driving characteristics for such a small and practical car – with its sharper styling, it really does have a much improved stance in the market than before.

Both petrol engines are refined, lively and frugal enough to cover the omission of a diesel; Honda hints at a future hybrid option instead.

It is a tough call for best buy; the 1.2 (from £9,990) does it all, but the 1.4 ES manual (£11,490) has extra comforts and can also be specc'd with the clever all-new i-Shift automated manual transmission – far better than the old CVT (continuously variable transmission) auto 'box on the previous Jazz.

DrivingPortfolio

HONDA JAZZ 1.2 SE £11,575

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How Green?	★★★★
Road tax	£120/year
Best rival	Vauxhall Agila/Suzuki Splash

The new arrangement is superior and undercuts fuel consumption of the standard manual and even rivals the 1.2 unit, while reducing CO2 emissions to 125g/km.

Perfect little number. The new Polo. From £9,435.

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34 monthly payments of	£99.00	Amount of credit	£6,633.91
Deposit	£2,801.09	Total amount payable	£10,744.09
Acceptance fee*	£125.00	Option to purchase fee†	£60.00
Optional final payment	£4,392.00	Excess mileage (per mile)**	3.60p
Retail cash price	£9,435.00		

Typical 8.1% APR *Payable as first payment. †Payable within optional final payment. **Excess mileage is subject to the prevailing rate of VAT. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Retail sales only. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s for registrations and deliveries before December 31st, 2009 (subject to availability). Volkswagen Finance, Freepost VWFS. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at anytime.

Motorline Volkswagen
Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells. Telephone: 01892 616212.
www.motorline.volkswagen.co.uk
Licenced credit brokers.

Official fuel consumption for the new Polo in mpg (litres/100km): urban 38.7 (7.3); extra urban 62.8 (4.5); combined 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 128g/km.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) – 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) – 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) – 62.8 (4.5), CO_2 Emissions 119 – 364 g/km.

*A customer saving will be applied to the RRP (including delivery, but excluding any factory fitted options or accessories) and is equivalent to the current rate of VAT at 15%. VAT is still applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. Offer available to private individuals. All other sales categories are excluded. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government Scrappage Scheme. Offer applies to selected new vehicles ordered between 01.11.09 and 30.11.09 and registered by 31.12.09. Offer applies to selected Retailer stock only and is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Participating Retailers only – see www.offers.vauxhall.co.uk for details of your nearest participating Retailer.

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Typical finance example for New Corsa Active 1.0i 12v A/C 3dr as advertised, based on 10,000 miles per annum. If 50,000 miles is exceeded, additional mileage charges will apply. (2) Inclusive of Government and WJ King Scrappage Allowance.

CASH PRICE	DEPOSIT	AMOUNT FINANCED	1ST PAYMENT	59 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	1 FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST CHARGES	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 51.4 (5.5) - 12.7 (22.3), extra-urban 74.3 (3.8) - 25.4 (11.1), combined 62.8 (4.5) - 18.6 (15.2), CO2 Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

Some models shown have optional metallic paint available at an additional cost of £395. Savings shown are against MRRP at time of publication. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock only, whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. *Government Scrappage Allowance and WJ King Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.08.99 when traded in against a new car subject to conditions. All offers available to private individuals. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered between 12.10.09 and 30.11.09, and are subsequently registered before 30.11.09 and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. † Finance subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Finance supplied by Alphera Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UF. ##Free insurance offer is underwritten by President Insurance PLC. Offer applies to private individuals (excluding Driving Schools). Corsa 59i drivers must be aged between 19-80. Drivers must have held a full UK/EU Driving Licence for at least two years. A compulsory excess of £250 will apply. Please note additional excesses do apply in respect of young drivers and modifications. (1)To qualify for Zafira Loyalty allowance of £1500 you must currently own a Zafira model for a minimum of 90 days. Your current Zafira does not need to be part exchanged to claim discount. Terms and conditions apply. A £58 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Citroën Picasso

Citroën's cubist cult continues

PICASSO invented cubism and Citroën has a long-running gag about attempting to disguise it.

I wouldn't say the French marque's highly successful Picasso MPV sub-brand has produced visual masterpieces – that label must be reserved for the very best – but they cleverly avoid the one-box people carrier cubist look.

The latest blurring of the edges is the C3 Picasso, which could actually come from my six-year-old's scribble pad judging by its boxy proportions, yet has a great deal of style that presses so many buttons visually.

Basically upright lines means lots of load carrying versatility, of course, but this capacious car has slippery edges and almost 4x4 styling cues. It also 'blings up' well with alloys, roof bars and add-ons.

Some industry watchers said they couldn't see who the C3 Picasso was aimed at, but it is finding new customers and satisfying buyers of the original Xsara Picasso.

Part of the draw is the C3's quality interior and refinement. It is not a bad drive either, a multiple bonus when buying at the bottom end of the range from £11,795, but a complement when would-be buyers start piling on extras.

Standard kit includes MP3-compatible sound system with steering-wheel mounted controls and auxiliary socket, electrically adjustable mirrors and front electric windows.

As a result, you can see the car appealing as a cheap family wagon, 'funky wheels' for young buyers, executive holdall, lifestyle estate with a difference or 'smart yet sensible wheels' for empty nesters, to name but a few.

I reckon the car looks best in dark colours with the £200 Black Pack alloys and bumper inserts, but Citroën has shrewdly offered various acid colours – it has 'cult car' written all over it.

We borrowed a 95bhp 1.4-litre petrol model from Wilmoths Citroën at Park Wood, Maidstone, the most junior engine yet lively enough for the newcomer and quiet on the motorway.

A 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit is also in the mix, but Wilmoths' general sales manager Kelvin Clayton expects the two 1.6-litre diesel options – 90bhp and 110bhp – to dominate sales 70/30, despite a £1,100 premium and signs of a swing back to petrol, helped by the fact that those units are from a fruitful collaboration between Peugeot-Citroën and BMW.

"People are thinking more about petrol because the vehicles and fuel are cheaper," he added.

There are three C3 Picasso trim levels: VT, VTR+ – the start point for air con as standard – and Exclusive.

They all have typical Picasso versatility with split-folding rear seats that slide back and forth independently and can be folded away in one movement.

The front passenger seat back also folds for extra load space within a 1.66-metre cabin – one of the longest in its class and rivalling many MPVs from the next segment up. With

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09/59	**Zafira 1.8 Active 5dr MPV** CD, A/C, Black Sapphire, Del Mileage	£19,910	£14,795	£5115
09/59	**Corsa 1.3 CDTi Active 5dr H/B** CD, A/C, Choice of Colours, Del Mileage	£13,505	£10,995	£2510
09/59	**Corsa 1.3 CDTi Active 3dr H/B** CD, A/C, Silver	£12,755	£9,995	£2760
09/59	**Insignia 1.8 Exclusive 5dr H/B** Plus Pack CD, A/C, Front Fog Lights, Silver, Del Mileage	£18,460	£14,495	£3965
09/59	**Astra 1.6 Active 5dr H/B** CD, A/C, Soverign Silver, Del Mileage	£17,440	£11,995	£5445
09/09	**Agila 1.2 Design 5dr H/B** CD, A/C, Choice	£10,945	£8,995	£1964

08/58	Corsa 1.3 CDTi SXI 5dr H/B CD, Remote CDL, Airbags, A/C, Sunroof, Silver, 9K	£8,595
09/09	Corsa 1.2 Life A/C 5dr H/B CD, Remote CDL, ABS, Airbags, Air Con, Choice	£8,395
08/08	Corsa Club 1.216v 5dr H/B CD, Remote CDL, ABS, Airbags Silver, Under 27K	£7,495
06/56	Corsa 1.2 Club 3dr H/B CD, Remote CDL, ABS, Airbags Ultra Blue Under 24K	£6,795
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08/08	Corsa 1.2 Life A/C 3dr H/B CD, ABS, Airbags Air Con, Star Silver Under 17K	£7,495
08/58	Corsa Design 1.4 5dr H/B CD, Remote CDL, ABS, Airbags, Electric Front windows Auto lights, Part Leather, Air Con, Black Sapphire, Under 12K	£9,795
08/08	Corsa 1.4 Design 5dr H/B CD, Remote CDL, ABS, Airbags, Silver Under 10k	£9,795
07/57	Tigra 1.4 Exclusive CD, A/C, Alloys Antiqua Blue Under 23 K	£10,495
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08/08	Astra 1.8 Design Twin Top CD, MP3, Part Leather, Black Sapphire Under 14k	£12,595
08/58	Astra 1.8 Design Twin Top CD, MP3, A/C, Part Leather, Star Silver Under 17K	£13,995
08/08	Astra 1.6 SXI Sport Hatch CD, MP3, ABS, Alloys, A/C, Silver, Under 27K	£9,495
05/05	Astra 1.6 Breeze 5dr H/B CD, ABS, Alloys, A/C Silver Lightning Under 41K	£5,995
08/08	Astra 1.8 Sri Sport Hatch CD, A/C, Electric Front Windows, Black, Under 27K	£10,995
08/08	Astra 1.8 Sri Sport Hatch XP CD, A/C, Electric Windows, Silver Under 26K	£10,995
08/58	Astra 1.9 150ps Design 5dr H/B Part leather, A/C, Electric Windows, Blue	£12,995
08/08	Astra 1.8 Elite 5dr H/B Auto CD, MP3, ABS, Alloys, A/C, Silver, Under 26K	£10,595
08/08	Astra 1.9 150PS Sri Sport Hatch XP CD, A/C, ABS, Black Sapphire, Under 28K	£12,995
08/58	Astra 1.6 Club 5dr Estate CD, A/C, Electric Front Windows Black, Under 13K	£10,495
09/09	Meriva 1.3 CDTi Active Tinted Windows, Leather steering Wheel, CD, Black	£11,495
08/58	Meriva 1.6 Design 5dr MPV Tinted Windows, CD, Silver Lightning UNDER 35K	£4,995
07/57	Meriva 1.4 Life 5dr MPV CD ABS, Remote CDL Star Silver Under 10K	£7,995
09/09	Meriva 1.4 Life 5dr MPV CD ABS, Remote CDL Black Demo Please Call	£8,995
08/58	Zafira 1.9 CDTi 150PS SRi Sports Seats, A/C, CD, Alloys, SILVER, Under 26K	£11,995
08/08	Zafira 1.8 Design CD, A/C, Electric Front Windows, Star silver Under 28K	£10,495
04/04	Zafira 1.8 Life 5dr MPV Auto CD, A/C, Ultra Blue Under 48K	£4,995
09/59	Zafira 1.6 Active + CD, A/C, Electric Windows, silver, Under 200 miles	£15,995
08/58	Vectra 1.9 120PS SRi 5dr H/B CD, A/C, Alloys, Black Under 16K	£10,495
09/09	Insignia 2.0 SRI CDTi 160 PS Automatic Estate Electric Windows, Climate control, Tinted Rear Windows, VXR Pack, 20" Alloys Glaciar White Demo Please Call	P.O.A
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09/59	Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Sportive Van CD, Silver Del Mileage	10495 + VAT
09/59	COMBO VAN 1.7 CDTI 1700 WHITE Del Mileage	8240 + VAT

Chevrolet Selection

		LIST PRICE	NOW	SAVE
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08/58	Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr H/B CD, MP3, A/C, Electric Windows, Alloys, Silver Under 11K	£6,495
09/09	Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr H/B CD, MP3, A/C, Electric Windows, Alloys, Silver	£6,995
09/09	Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr H/B Auto CD, MP3, A/C, Electric Windows, Yellow Under 5K	£7,495
09/09	Aveo 1.2 S 3dr H/B CD, MP3, Electric Front windows, A/C Silver Under 3K	£5,795
09/09	Aveo 1.2 LS 5dr H/B CD, MP3, Electric windows, A/C Blue Demo please call	£6,995
09/59	Matiz 0.8SE Automatic 5dr H/B CD Electric Front windows PAS, Black	Please Call
09/09	Chevrolet Matiz 1.0 SE 5dr H/B CD Electric Front windows PAS A/C	£5,995
05/55	MATIZ 1.0 SE 5DR H/B CD Electric Front windows PAS, BLUE UNDER 32K	£3,995

Other Makes Selection

04/04	AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE 1.8 T CD, A/C Remote CDL, Black UNDER 53K	£10,495
05/55	Ford Fiesta Style 5dr H/B CD, A/C, Remote CDL, Automatic Red Under 34K	£4,995
05/05	Renault Clio Extreme CD, A/C, Remote CDL Silver Under 26K	£4,995

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the front seat down, the driver also has a useful table-cum-tray for life on the road.

As you might imagine, the C3 Picasso's upright rear end ensures one of the biggest boots in its sector and has a removable floor, which can be positioned at two levels to give either a flat load floor with rear seats folded or a much deeper boot when they are upright.

The glassy cabin can be enhanced with a panoramic roof (£520) – something of a Picasso speciality – and the attention to detail for carrying the passengers' bits and bobs is impressive.

Add this to the Picasso's high driving position and thankfully minimal body roll in corners, and you are inclined to forgive the vague steering.

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DrivingPortfolio

CITROËN C3 PICASSO 1.4 PETROL VTR+ £12,895

Driving appeal	★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How Green?	★★★★
Road tax	£150/year
Best rival	Ford C-Max

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the car's lifeless steering that spoils an otherwise brilliant package

NOT SURE: enough buyers will check the benefits of the cheaper petrol engines

REALLY LIKE: that it is one MPV the style-conscious really can buy without worrying

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- 8000 mls

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Limited offer valid from 6th November 2009 until such point as they may be withdrawn by Robins & Day at their discretion. Prices, information and offers correct at time of going to press. Offers subject to availability. Prices may vary at each dealer and exclude Government Vehicle Excise Duty. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only. Savings shown are against new MRRP of vehicle excluding metallic paint. Vehicles benefit from the balance of 3 year manufacturer's warranty from date of first registration. * Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Service, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Offers subject to status, terms and conditions apply.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra-urban - 42.8 (6.6), Combined - 38.2 (7.4). CO_2 emissions 197g/km. Cruze 1.6 LS 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 emissions 159g/km. Epica 2.0 VCDi LS 4dr: Urban - 37.7 (7.5), Extra-urban - 53.3 (5.3), Combined - 46.3 (6.1). CO_2 emissions 169g/km.

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost of £400. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost (Cruze £249, Epica and Captiva £349). Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st December 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev82107)

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Motability

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO2 emissions 119g/km.

Vehicle shown features mica paint available at extra cost of £325. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st December 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev79242). Scrappage Allowance subject to eligibility, please ask for terms and conditions.

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Models shown are the JAZZ 1.2 i-VTEC S manual from £9,990 otr and the JAZZ 1.4 i-VTEC EX manual from £12,790 otr. FUEL FIGURES FOR RANGE - Urban cycle 42.8-43.5(6.5-6.6)L per 100km, Extra urban cycle 60.1-62.8 mpg/4.5-4.7 per 100km, Combined cycle 52.3-53.3 mpg/5.3-5.4L per 100km. CO2 125-130g/km. Price shown excludes metallic paint. Metallic/pearlescent/black colour paint at an additional cost of £380 inc VAT. Total cash price includes £640 delivery, number plates, a full tank of fuel, £55 first registration fee and VED in line with Government legislation. All figures correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions 119g/km.

Discount price of £6,145 relates to Aveo 1.2 S 3dr model only (for Matiz 0.8 S 5dr £4,595). Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Aveo £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. The savings are against current MRP and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st December 2009. Prices correct at time of press. At participating retailers only. *£2,000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. When traded in against a new car subject to conditions and whilst Government funding applies. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.08.99 when traded in against a new vehicle subject to conditions. Offers apply to new vehicles ordered or registered between 01.10.09 and 31.12.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. Extra savings provided by Chevrolet UK Ltd only. Cannot be used with any other offer. Available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other Sales categories are excluded. UK supplied vehicles only. Offer ends 31st December 2009. Excludes Isle of Man and Channel Islands. (Chev82097)

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02 02	Skoda Fabia Comfort 5dr 1.9 5 Door Estate Finished In Green With Grey Interior With under 10100 miles	£4,495
05 05	Skoda Fabia Ambiente 12V Htp 1.2 5 Door Estate Finished In Beige Tan With Black Interior With under 10100 miles	£5,495
07 57	Skoda Fabia Ambiente 12V Htp 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Black Interior With under 15700 miles	£5,995
08 08	Skoda Fabia Sport 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior With under 3900 miles	£6,565
07 57	Skoda Fabia Ambiente 12V Htp 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Grey Interior With under 20700 miles	£6,995
06 06	Skoda Fabia Vrs Tdi Pd 130 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In With Grey Interior With under 56000 miles	£6,995
08 58	Skoda Fabia 1 Htp 70 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Storm Blue With Black Interior With under 17500 miles	£7,495
09 58	Skoda Fabia 21.6 5 Door Estate Finished In Blue With Grey Interior With under 6100 miles	£8,150
08 58	Skoda Fabia 88Bhp 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Grey Interior With under 12100 miles,	£8,495
07 57	Skoda Fabia 3 105 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior With under 9200 miles.	£8,995
08 58	Skoda Fabia 3 Tdi 105 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Titanium Metallic Grey With Black Interior With under 11000 miles. Price New £13,565, SAVE OVER £5,670	£9,885

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08 08	Skoda Roomster 1.1 4Rd Mpv Finished In With Blue Interior With under 7100 miles.	£6,130
08 08	Skoda Roomster 2 16V 85 1.4 Mpv Finished In Flamenco Red With Black Interior With under 12300 miles.	£8,595
07 07	Skoda Roomster 3 Tdi 105 1.9 Mpv Finished In Flamenco Red With Grey Interior With under 15400 miles.	£8,995
09 09	Skoda Roomster 2 16V 105 A 1.6 Mpv Finished In Blue With Black Interior With under 3300 miles.	£11,495

Skoda Octavia

03 53	Skoda Octavia Silverline Tdi 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Cloth Interior With under 52800 miles.	£4,995
08 08	Skoda Octavia 1.9 Tdi 5 Door Estate Finished In Grey With Black Interior With under 12900 miles	£7,826
07 07	Skoda Octavia Ambiente Tdi 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Diamond Silver With Grey Interior With under 44500 miles.	£8,995
07 07	Skoda Octavia Elegance Fsi 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Black Interior With under 12800 miles.	£9,495
08 08	Skoda 1.9 Octavia Ambiente Tdi Auto 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior With under 14200 miles.	£11,495
08 08	Skoda 1.9 Octavia Ambiente Tdi Auto 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Grey With Black Interior With under 13700 miles.	£11,495
08 58	Skoda Auto Octavia Ambiente Tdi Auto 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior With under 18800 miles.	£11,995
08 58	Skoda Octavia Vrs Tdi Cr 2.0 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Red With Black Interior With under 3400 miles.	£15,995

Skoda Superb

09 09	Skoda Superb Se Crtd 2.0 Saloon Finished In Red With Black Interior With under 2000 miles.	£16,995
08 58	Skoda Superb Elegance Crtdi A 2.0 Saloon Finished In With Leather Interior With under 8100 miles.	£19,495

Other Makes

06 7	Peugeot Partner 600 Le 1.4 Mpv Finished In White With under 56900 miles	£2,995
99 V	Vauxhall Astra Club Auto 1.6 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Cloth Interior With under 35100 miles.	£2,995
06 55	Peugeot 206 Verve Sw 1.4 5 Door Estate Finished In Black Blue With Black Interior With under 37500 miles.	£5,585
04 54	Renault Megane Dy-Miquie Vvt 136 2.0 5 Door Estate Finished In Beige Tan With Leather Interior With under 53100 miles	£5,995
04 04	Subaru Forester Xt Turbo 2.0 Estate Finished In Blue With Cloth Interior With under 59400 miles.	£5,995
07 07	Peugeot 107 Urban 1.0 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Laser Red With Grey Cloth Interior With under 15300 miles.	£5,995
06 55	Peugeot 206 Sport 1.6 3 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With Black Interior With under 22300 miles.	£5,995
07 07	Peugeot 207 S 1.4 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Silver With under 37100 miles.	£6,685
07 07	Vauxhall Meriva Energy 16V 1.6 Mpv Finished In Silver With Cloth Interior With under 37500 miles	£6,995
08 08	Citroen C1 Rhythm 1.0 3 Door Hatchback Finished In Scarlet Red With Grey Interior With under 11800 miles.	£6,995
06 56	Volkswagen Polo 55 S 1.2 5 Door Hatchback Finished In Blue With Black Interior With under 9800 miles.	£7,295
04 04	Jaguar X-Type Se D 2.0 Saloon Finished In Silver With Leather Interior With under 38900 miles.	£8,995

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda Range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra–urban 38.2 (7.4) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 28.0 (10.1) 68.9 (4.1). CO2 emissions for the Skoda Range 109 – 235g/km.

***The £3,500 saving is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage scheme criteria. Retail Sales only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer ie Scrappage. Skoda Finance, Freepost Skoda Finance. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 29/02/00 when traded – in against a new car, subject to terms and conditions. The scrappage contribution is dependent on your vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & conditions apply. All participating retailers only. Offers are subject to vehicle availability from participating retailers and may be varied or withdrawn at anytime. Please see Caffyns Skoda for full VAT saving details. For terms and conditions. Finance subject to status.

02 02 Skoda Fabia Comfort

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£4450	£0	£4450	£937.76	£0

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2006 56 SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 10,5000 miles, Met grey. Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cruise control, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Sports seats, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Anti theft system, Electric mirrors, Alarm, Front armrest, PAS, Air con, Central locking, C/C, Foglights, FSH. Sat Nav, Mobile phone Bluetooth connection, Buisness Pack. 6 Speed gearbox **£8,495**

2004 SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear , 4 Doors, Manual, Diesel, 47,000 miles, Metallic Steel Grey. ABS, Air conditioning, Alarm, Alloy wheels, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Full Service History, Park distance control, Traction control. . £8,000

2005 05 SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport , 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance contro **£7,495**

2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 69,000 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass. **£5,495**

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05 (55) **Sirion 1.3 SE** Green, PAS, ABS Alloys A/C Twin Airbags 1 Owner , 11,000 miles. £5995
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06 (06) **Gen-2 1.6 GLS Auto** Angel Blue PAS ABS A/C Ex Demo 2,000 miles . . £5995
06 (06) **Gen-2 GLS Auto** Black PAS ABS Leather Int one Owner FSH 3,000 miles £5295
06 (05) **Gen-2 1.6** Blue, PAS, ABS, Alloys, One Owner FSH 15,000 miles . . . £4995
07 (57) **Satria Neo 1.6 GSX** 3dr, PAS, ABS, A/C, Alloys, FSH, 11,600 miles . £6695
07 (07) **Savvy Style Auto 1.2** Silver, PAS ABS A/C One Owner FSH 19,000 miles £4995

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05 (55) **Suzuki 1.3 GL** Met Grey, PAS Roof Rails, Alloys, FSH, One Owner 31,000 miles. . £3995
02 (02) **Vauxhall Agila 1.2** Red PAS 78,000 miles £2395
02 (52) **Peugeot 206 xsi** 3 Dr, Blue, PAS ABS A/C, 38,000 miles £3995
09 (09) **Hyundai 120** 5 Dr, Hatch, Grey Metallic, PAS ABS A/C, One Owner 3,700 miles . £8995
06 (56) **Hyundai Getz 1.1** Atlantie, PAS ABS A/C, 22000 miles One owner £4995
56 (06) **Kia Picanto Zip** Red, PAS, ABS Sun Roof 21,000 miles £4595
03 (03) **Rover 2Si** Blue, 5 Dr PAS, A/C , 47,000 miles. £2395

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Latest poll finds growing confidence among bosses

RAY OF LIGHT: Optimism about the financial climate is double what it was a year ago

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TOP bosses across Kent have sounded a note of economic confidence through a poll commissioned by investment promotion agency Locate in Kent.

The Financial and Business Services Survey 2009 shows 56 per cent of companies feel optimistic about the financial climate and its impact on their business, compared with just 29 per cent in October, 2008.

Results also show confidence among businesses is starting to improve with more than half (51 per cent) of respondents feeling their business can grow in the next two years, compared with under a third (32 per cent) in 2008.

While over half of all businesses surveyed in 2008 envisaged a depressed marketplace for at least another year, just over a quarter (28 per cent) of Kent chief executives expected this to be the case in 2010.

These results support the suggestion by many economists that the financial situation should improve next year and point to an increase in GDP for the UK.

However, some Kent firms remain cautious about the year ahead, with only six per cent "very confident" about a prompt financial recovery.

LOOKING AHEAD: Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent

Overall, financial service companies were found to be more optimistic than those in business services.

When questioned about the effect of Southeastern's high-speed trains to London, and the full launch of services in December, almost half (47per cent) of all respondents felt it would persuade more companies from the UK and overseas to locate to Kent.

More than half the businesses surveyed in East Kent (56 per cent) felt it would encourage investment in the county, followed by 54 per cent in the Channel corridor and 33 per cent in the Thames Gateway Kent.

Locate in Kent chief executive Paul Wookey said: "We cannot escape from the fact that many businesses have suffered as a result of the recession, but it is encouraging that Kent businesses are more optimistic about their prospects than they were last year.

"In fact, one in five respondents felt their company's prospects were better for being based in Kent rather than elsewhere in the UK.

"With the advent of high-speed trains making journeys from the county to London faster than ever before, we feel the next year will be very important for Kent and Medway and anticipate good levels of investment in the county and an improved financial situation for Kent's existing companies."

Ailing 'offies' lose sparkle

EIGHTY jobs will be lost and 17 off-licences closed across Kent in the run-up to Christmas – usually the most buoyant time of year for the drinks sector.

The move has been forced due to the First Quench off-licence group, trading under the Threshers, Wine Rack, The Local, Haddows, Bottoms Up and Victoria Wine brandings, going into administration earlier this year.

Accountancy and auditing giant KPMG is handling efforts to salvage the ailing chain, but KPMG spokesman Richard Fleming said: "Unfortunately, after reviewing the viability of the store network, 373 loss-making stores are to be closed [nationally].

"Depending on stock levels, 247 of the stores will continue to trade until November 25, with 126 trading until December 2."

He said liquidation sales were already under way at many of the stores to be closed, but Mr Fleming added an optimistic note for remaining stores across Kent and the UK: "The remaining stores will continue to be traded as usual while we seek a buyer.

"So far, we have received considerable interest in the business from a range of buyers, including trade, individual investors and private equity.

"The remaining stores are trading well and present an attractive investment. We are confident of securing a sale in the coming weeks."

The Kent stores affected by the cutbacks mostly trade under the Wine Rack and The Local branding, with the Orpington area badly affected. Five stores will close there.

Other towns hit are Dartford and Folkestone, which have each lost two outlets.

The balance of closures is single shops in Sevenoaks, Canterbury, Swanley, Broadstairs, Chatham, Margate, Tonbridge and Bromley.

'KOS Media award raises awareness of our crucial role'

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A RECORDS centre holding crucial biological and environmental data was recognised for its work by the KOS Media Business Challenge Awards.

The Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre, in Faversham, won the community award after staff impressed judges with their conservation effort for species and habitats across the county.

Centre manager Dr Hannah Cook hopes the recognition will raise awareness of the work they carry out.

"We want to show people what we are doing and make them aware of how important it is to preserve wildlife and its habitat," she said.

"Wildlife in Kent in particular is under threat because of the pressure for development. With the many planning applications going through, our work is very important. Wildlife must be taken into account when developments are planned."

Dr Cook, who has worked at the centre since 2006, said the team was thrilled to have won the award.

"It means a lot to us," she said. "We're one of the few independent research centres like this in the country. Many are Government-run whereas we are an independent organisation.

Picture: TONY WITTS

TOP TEAM: From left, Teresa Frost, Tony Witts, Dave Giffen and Hannah Cook
INSET: Green silver-lines moth pictured at Little Barton Farm, Canterbury

"We have many partners though, including Kent County Council, the Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England." Others are Medway Council, the Environment Agency, Heritage Lottery Fund and European Interreg IIIA.

Dr Cook added: "One of the biggest things for us is making the public aware of what we do and the promotional prize that comes with the KOS Media award will really help us with this.

"We don't have a big budget, so things like the business awards really help us."

The centre provides a data management service by holding biological and environmental information which is made available to local authorities, planners, conservation organisations, academics, local naturists and the public.

Her six-strong team has three core functions: data collection, collation, and dissemination of the information.

The public also help by collecting information about any species they may have seen.

Dr Cook said: "People can really help us by collecting data in their own gardens. They can send us photos, give us a call or drop in the specimens for us to identify.

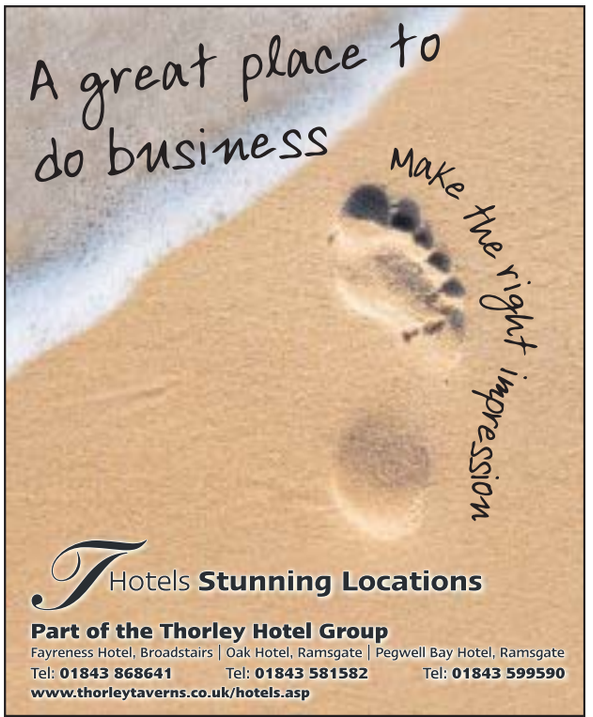
"A lot of people that have collected data in their gardens have been referred to us by Kent Wildlife Trust as that is the first organisation that people think of, but they can come straight to us.

"People don't always think one or two records they have collected are important, but they are – they can make a difference to whether a planning application goes through or not, so we encourage the public to get involved."

To contact the centre call 01795 532385 or email info@kmbrc.org.uk. More information at www.kmbrc.org.uk.

To view search 'records' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Hannah Cook and Tony Witts of the biological records centre accept the Community Award from KOS Media's Dean Headley



'Everywoman' triumphs over illness and setbacks

SO PROUD: Finalist Kate Belmonte

YOUNG entrepreneur Kate Belmonte has reached the finals of the 2009 NatWest Everywoman Awards.

Kate, from Gillingham, is shortlisted for the Royal Mail's Artemis Award for the most inspiring entrepreneur between the ages of 26 and 35 following the success of her companies, LB Signs and The Celebration Banner Collection.

Now in their seventh year, the awards recognise the UK's most inspirational and successful of Britain's businesswomen, underlining the work of Everywoman Ltd, a leading provider of training, resources and support services for women in business.

Kate was nominated after a career beginning with a rethink due to unexpected cancellation of her university course, forcing her to enter the exhibition industry, only to be made redundant later.

So she followed her signwriting father's footsteps and launched LB Signs for the corporate market, branching out into the Celebration Banner Collection, offering bespoke banners for special events.

All this was achieved before she was 22 and all the more impressive as Kate has suffered from painful psoriatic arthritis since her early teens, forcing her to balance her illness, lifestyle and career.

And yet she has shown the product knowledge, customer service and attention to detail to grow a successful business with turnover doubling year on year.

"It's been an emotional rollercoaster getting this far," said Kate. "But I'm proud of what I've achieved in so short a time. I've learnt the personal touch is really important. It may take longer to build your following, but I look at my business for the long term and this sets me apart from the competition."

From waste of space to pioneering return

Free consultation incentive for empty properties

OWNERS of empty properties in Kent are to be offered free design and renovation consultation in a pioneering bid to return badly needed housing to the market, ***writes Andy Rogers***.

The deal has been struck by the county's local authorities' No Use Empty initiative, the Empty Homes Agency and Stephen Donald Architects.

This consortium believes not knowing how to approach renovation work has become a major barrier to empty property owners realising the potential of their asset.

Those taking up the offer will be asked to make a small donation to the Empty Homes Agency, an independent campaign charity.

The new initiative, known as Architect in the Empty House, is being pioneered in Kent where an estimated 18,400 homes are now empty. It is hoped Kent will become a blueprint for use across the UK.

No Use Empty is a partnership between Kent County Council and district councils, launched in 2005, which has helped create about 800 new homes by recycling empty, unused properties.

Each district council in Kent will now write to every empty property owner on its database to offer the free consultation. In return for a £50 donation to the Empty Homes Agency, the owner will receive a one-hour consultation on site with a Royal Institute of British Architects qualified architect, who will subsequently provide a full report and valuation of work.

There is no obligation for the home owner to proceed with carrying out the work recommended.

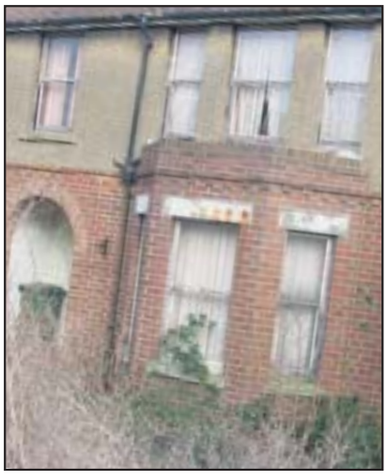
Steve Grimshaw, project manager of No Use Empty on behalf of KCC, said: "This is an excellent initiative which creates a win-win situation for the owner of empty properties and the campaign to recycle existing stock.

"Organising refurbishment and renovation work can be time-consuming and costly, but Architect in the Empty House offers a real incentive to owners to assess the options, courtesy of a free consultation with an expert."

David Ireland, chief executive with the Empty Homes Agency, said: "Empty properties are a waste of a valuable resource, losing the owner income, depriving people of a home and detrimental to the community."

Stephen Donald, founder of London-based Stephen Donald Architects, said: "This is a unique opportunity for owners of empty properties to discuss design changes and improvements to their home with a qualified RIBA chartered architect.

"The consultation and recommendation could make a home more spatially and energy efficient, while adding value to the property and raising funds to support the EHA's work."



WHAT A WASTE: One of the estimated 18,400 homes standing empty in Kent

No Use Empty also operates an interest-free loan scheme to help owners finance renovations to bring houses back into use. To date, the scheme has issued almost £2m, at a time when the recession is restricting bank loans.

The public can play their part by reporting long-term empty properties in their area. The No Use Empty campaign hotline is 08458 247 605, which is also the number for empty property owners keen to apply for a free design and renovation consultation. For more information, see www.no-use-empty.org

The fast track to innovation on campus

TWO hi-tech companies have been fast on their feet to be first to move into the futuristic £7.3 million Canterbury Innovation Centre on the University of Kent campus.

Lean Machines started in April, 2009, to market zero emission vehicles including electrically assisted bicycles and electric scooters and motorcycles across Kent and the South East.

Managers say they chose Canterbury Innovation Centre as it was a 21st century environment to house the company's showroom and workshop.

The link with the University of Kent was also seen as invaluable for opportunities to further develop company products and in marketing. Naneum Ltd develops and markets instruments for the detection and monitoring of airborne nanoparticles.

Circuits

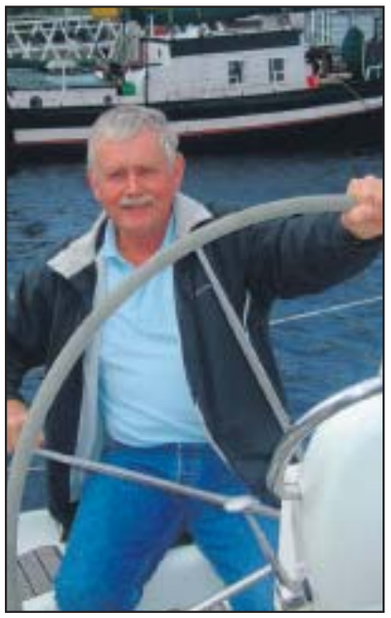
With nanotechnology – the design and manufacture of molecular-size electronic circuits and mechanical devices – still in its infancy, governments and industry are looking for highly sensitive equipment to detect and monitor nanoparticles in the air, to control their effects on health and the wider environment.

Naneum launched its first detection instruments in 2007 and has since grown to 11 employees and sees the benefit of locating close to the university and its technical expertise.

Developed and managed by business centre specialist Basepoint, Canterbury Innovation Centre – 25,000 sq ft of workshops, offices and laboratory space – was developed to nurture the companies of tomorrow.

Basepoint operates other business centres in Kent at Northfleet, Chatham, and Folkestone and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the ACT Foundation, a grant-making charity dedicated to improving the quality of life of those in need and deriving its income from a property portfolio.

Elite Sailing weathering the storm



PLANE SAILING: Ex-RAF man David Allen swapped wings for sails through his Elite Sailing operation on the Medway

SUCCESS is on the horizon for a sailing company from Chatham after it received a cash boost from Medway Council.

Elite Sailing, based at Chatham Maritime Marina, applied to the council's Partners for Growth scheme to help expand its business of teaching would-be skippers everything they need to know before sailing the high seas.

Thanks to a £10,000 interest-free business loan, it is now able to set up its own training barge, the Maaike Maria. The loan will be used to convert the barge to a training centre and employ more staff to keep up with demand.

After a career in the RAF, David Allan swapped his wings for sails and, with his wife Sue, set up Elite Sailing. They have spent 15 years training people to become qualified seafarers.

Despite tough economic conditions, Mr Allan said Elite Sailing appeared to have weathered the worst of the storm and aimed to expand its training and its sailing holidays.

He said: "Chatham and the River Medway offer an excellent base, with great links to London and Europe. This and our continued focus on quality have undoubtedly helped us build a strong business."

Elite Sailing operates three offshore yachts on the Medway and provides sailing or motor cruising instruction, from a first sailing weekend to RYA-approved courses for competent crew, skippers and yacht-masters.

Sessions include navigation, meteorology, radio operation, engine maintenance, sailing and motor boat courses over weekends or five and seven days.

"We cater for all experience levels, from absolute beginners who want to sail just for pleasure to professional offshore skipper training," said Mr Allan. "We also offer a programme of adventure sailing holidays around the UK and north-west Europe."

Partners for Growth is designed to help small and medium-sized local businesses that have an opportunity to grow and create employment, but cannot finance it all themselves.

For more details contact Medway Council's economic development team on 01634 338138, or visit www.medway.gov.co.uk/business.

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Unusual initial worries in ex-sapper's start-up

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW start-up company boss Peter Hegarty had 'initial' difficulties when settling on T&M Property Maintenance as the name of the operation.

"I formed the business with my wife Maxine, so we went with her initial as one half of the name but, being born in Cardiff, I've been known as Taff ever since I left Wales," said the 38-year-old Gillingham man.

"So, if someone called out 'Peter!', I wouldn't even think they were were talking to me, so we had to go with a T."

The former Royal Engineer, who also notched 20 years in construction, decided to start his own business after being made redundant in June and has become the first recipient of a £1,000 Partners for Growth start-up grant from Medway Council. Further help has come from the Royal British Legion.

He and Maxine have previously worked together at the Dockside shopping development in Chatham and plan to offer private and commercial small build works, general repairs, decorating, cleaning, window cleaning and garden maintenance.

Taff said: "This start-up grant will really help get the business off the ground as it will help with the costs associated with setting up, such as marketing and administration as well as other expenses.

TAFF AT THE TOP: Peter and Maxine have started T&M Property Maintenance

"The council has also provided me with training to run my business. Giving local people the help they need to start a new business is a really good thing to do in this difficult economic climate.

"My business plan has made a provision to take on six staff and I hope to employ four of these by April. With the council giving us this grant, we will be able to help other people in Medway by creating work for them."

Peter and Maxine were also provided with courses such as book-keeping and employment law training through Medway Council's Business Link service.

Its new business start-up grants provide up to a maximum of £1,000 to local people with a sound business idea and typically includes:

- Those with innovative new commercial business ideas.
- Redundant people who may be highly skilled with significant business experience.
- Students graduating from universities wishing to start their own companies.
- New creative industry businesses.
- Social enterprises delivering services to the community.

Cllr Jane Chitty, portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth at the council, said: "The council has introduced its Partners for Growth business start-up grants to help kick-start new business schemes during these difficult times.

"These grants will give people a real opportunity to realise their dreams and unlock their ambition."

For more information, call the council's economic development team on 01634 338138.

Stalled housing sites given £9m Kickstart

WORK on two stalled housing developments in Deal and Medway have gained a £9 million cash injection from the Government Kickstart programme.

Work will resume within weeks on 103 homes at St Mary's Island, Chatham, including 67 eco-friendly homes for the open market, 15 homes for social rent and 21 for low-cost home ownership.

The second project is 50 homes for the open market, plus much needed community services including a doctor's surgery and a community centre, in Cannon Street, Deal.

Both projects were among 26 shortlisted during the summer for Government funding, which also included another in Ashford. Total Kickstart funding for the South East is £43.27m, earmarked for 964 homes. South East minister Jonathan Shaw said: "The construction industry, which has suffered during the recession, needs this cash injection to kick-start work on building sites, to provide much needed properties. In the South East more than 200,000 households are on council waiting lists and more than 7,500 homeless households are living in temporary accommodation.

"The two schemes are also offering local labour apprenticeships, so we are creating jobs, developing skills,and providing homes."

Further Kent projects may benefit from a second wave of Kickstart funding worth £500m.

But the Government insists it is getting value for every Kickstart pound, as two thirds of funding must be repaid, with less than a fifth consisting of direct grant to support developers and the rest used to fund affordable homes as part of the programme. And only developers who have accepted a realistic current market price for their land have been eligible for this investment.

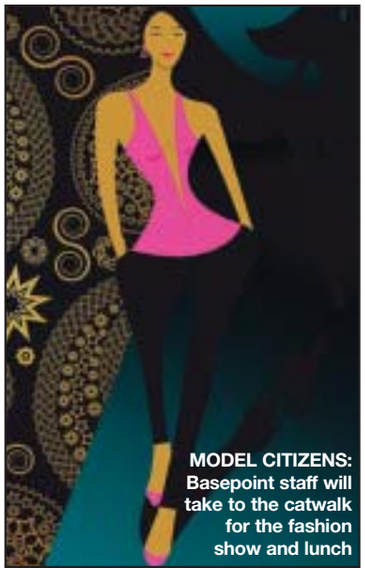
Model assistance for charity show

THE Martha Trust charity, which assists people with profound physical and learning disabilities, is jointly organising a ladies' fashion show and lunch on Tuesday.

Its partner in the event at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall is Basepoint, the property portfolio owned by the ACT Foundation grant-making charity.

Those attending will include Sandra Howard, wife of Folkestone and Hythe MP Michael Howard. Modelling clothes supplied by Ella Boutique and Debenhams will be volunteers from Basepoint.

Accountant David Olding, from Tax MoT, will be compère, and with a raffle and auction, the show will be an enjoyable way to aid the Deal-based Martha Trust. Tickets are £25 per head for a two-course lunch and are available from Serita Boxall at the Martha Trust 01304 610448 (seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk) and also on sale at Basepoint Folkestone, Shearway Business Park.


MODEL CITIZENS: Basepoint staff will take to the catwalk for the fashion show and lunch

Right chemistry

MEDWAY School of Pharmacy graduate Anthony Samson has been named Tesco's Pre-Registration Trainee of the Year.

Anthony, pictured right, worked as a trainee pharmacist at Tesco after completing his Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree at Medway in 2008 and his award recognises dedication during the year-long training programme.

Anthony, from Sittingbourne, spent his pre-reg year at the Sheerness branch of Tesco and has continued working with the supermarket chain as a professional pharmacist and is planning to become a cardiovascular specialist in either community or hospital pharmacy.

Programme manager Khilna Shah said: "Anthony's ambition and drive were clearly demonstrated during the year. He has shown true dedication and commitment."

PERSONAL insolvencies have reached record numbers, according to research by accountancy/audit giant KPMG.

More than 240 people are petitioning for their own bankruptcy in the UK every day, amounting to 35,242 for the quarter ending September 30 – nearly 30 per cent up on the same period in 2008.

The recession is largely to blame and things may worsen. John Bangham, director of personal insolvency at KPMG, said: "With many people already living beyond their means, this downturn coupled with increasing unemployment will force people to take drastic action, such as applying for bankruptcy."

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based executive recruitment and training company GerrardWhite and the spa town's Brew House Hotel have combined to create One Talent Development.

The new venture answers local demand by individuals to explore their personal and career aspirations and has been masterminded by Tanya Gerrard-White, who has more than 25 years' experience in recruitment and helping people to realise their true potential.

One Talent Development comprises workshops and seminars large and small for the remainder of 2009 and into 2010, designed to fit in with family commitments wherever possible.

It is based at the beautifully restored Old School House within the Brew House Hotel on Warwick Park, close to the Pantiles. Tanya said: "Like-minded people will have the opportunity to enjoy dynamic, yet approachable, sessions, in an historic venue."

SENCIO Community Leisure (SCL) has gained Inclusive Fitness Initiative's (IFI) provisional level status.

The Kent-based organisation achieved the accreditation for work at Sevenoaks leisure centre to improve access, staff training in disability awareness and for new parking and emergency policies.

The centre has also organised a family open day in conjunction with Valence School to highlight specialist and adapted sports. There is also a Friday evening fun club for children with disabilities, their siblings, parents and carers.

SUBARU has stepped up its hunt for new franchises in Kent. Though the upmarket Japanese 4x4 specialist imports its cars through county ports, it is conscious of under-representation in a county with favourable demographics.

The brand is promoting its franchises opportunities with a "high-profile products with good margins at a low-entry cost" pitch and is prepared to talk to used car specialists and people keen to own their first dealership as well as other brand holders.

SOLICITORS Furley Page is bucking a trend in the profession where staff are being shed or working short time.

It has had no recession casualties across its Canterbury, Whitstable, Chatham and Lloyds of London offices and has actually expanded.

Its new premises in the Admiral's Offices at Chatham Historic Dockyard has gained experienced lawyer Maxine Gregory, who joins Martin Kingman's debt recovery and insolvency team, while newly-qualified solicitor Tony Chester joins the corporate team.

Susan Jennings, who heads the Chatham office, said: "Further expansion is on the cards, but we're not resting on our laurels. We need to get the message out that we offer the expertise of London firms without the City price tag. The dockyard is a fantastic location for our clients."

‘Scroogesque’ festive fears of consumers

HO HO HUM: Many consumers say they are planning to keep a tight rein on the purse strings again this Christmas

PEOPLE are braced for another ‘Scroogesque’ Christmas, with 71 per cent saying they have gone back to basics to manage dwindling funds, ***writes Andy Rogers***.

But men are more likely to flash the cash for Christmas, if they can.

These are just some findings from a survey by modern pawnbrokers, the Money Shop chain, which has some 15 branches across the county – two each in Canterbury and Maidstone and three in Medway.

Of the two sexes, men are most buoyant about the coming celebrations – 35 per cent say they will still spend on the festive trimmings.

But almost twice as many women as men say they are scrimping and saving for this Christmas (41 per cent) and only half, compared with men, are prepared to fritter their hard-earned cash on luxury gifts (42 per cent).

Some women (12 per cent) say they will they will even hock their ‘bling’ – jewellery and other valuables – to make ends meet at Christmas.

Splash out

Overall Kent shoppers have cut their budget (32 per cent) and only a hardy two per cent are determined to splash out and spoil their loved ones to try to make up for another dire financial year.

Andrew Bryan of the Money Shop said Kent consumers appear to be taking sensible measures to save cash where they can, with 35 per cent actively seeking tips for a thrifty Christmas, 29 per cent fixing a spending cap per person and 12 per cent even cashing in unwanted gold and jewellery.

Skimpy

But he added: “Depending on who plays Santa’s little helper when it comes to braving the shops in the annual present dash, the residents of Kent could be in for a skimpy festive season sparse on frivolity, or a bountiful bonanza of a bash complete with all the extravagance associated with a proper Christmas.”

As for the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, he said Kent consumers are showing signs of optimism that 2010 will bring a surge of improvement, with 22 per cent expecting their finances to improve come the New Year.

But many still have familiar worries about growing unemployment (31 per cent) the rising cost of living (70) and the threat of higher mortgage interest rates (23).

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.79% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/01/2012 **OD:** £1,329

L&G FIRST ACTIVE
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.19% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/12/2011 **OD:** £1,529

MORTGAGE BOX - ITL
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.29% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/01/2012 **OD:** £1,283

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 02/01/2012 **OD:** £1,030

OTHER

NORTHERN ROCK
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.59% **L:** 70% **U:** 01/01/2012 **OD:** £1,030

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.69% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £1,030

DARLINGTON
RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE **R%:** 3.15% **L:** 70% **U:** 30/11/2011 **OD:** £1,320

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.69% **L:** 70% **U:** 3 YEARS **OD:** £1,305

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LIFE COVER COMPARISON FOR £150,000 OVER 25 YEARS

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MALE AGED 25		FEMALE AGED 25	
AVIVA	£7.25	LEGAL & GENERAL	£6.05
AXA	£7.33	AVIVA	£6.05
LEGAL & GENERAL	£7.55	AXA	£6.08
AVIVA (SIMPLIFIED)	£7.82	LV=	£6.38
SCOT PROVIDENT	£8.35	AVIVA	£6.76
AEGON SCOT EQUIT	£8.54	FRIENDS PROV	£6.91

MALE AGED 40		FEMALE AGED 40	
AXA	£17.25	AXA	£14.21
BRIGHT GREY	£17.42	AVIVA	£14.21
AVIVA	£17.68	LEGAL & GENERAL	£14.30
ZURICH	£17.80	BRIGHT GREY	£14.31
LEGAL & GENERAL	£18.05	AVIVA (SIMPLIFIED)	£14.60
AEGON SCOT EQUIT	£18.09	LV=	£14.80

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Brewery earns celebratory pint

WESTERHAM Brewery has won a National Trust Fine Farm Produce Award for its Little Scotney Pale Ale.

TRUST AWARD: Little Scotney Pale Ale

The brewery, based on the trust’s Grange Farm in Crockham Hill near Edenbridge, combines traditional methods with modern technology to ensure high environmental standards.

Set up in 2004 by Robert Wicks, the brewery uses hops from nearby Scotney Castle and works with the trust and farmer Ian Strong to produce the beer, launched in 2005.

Mr Wicks also won the same award last year with his Little Scotney Best Bitter, which boosted brewery ales. National Trust head of agriculture Rob Macklin said: “The awards are given to only the very best produce from the places looked after by the Trust.

“Winning an award means that products have had to pass rigorous tests to ensure they are produced to the highest possible standards.”

The brewery sells beer through Trust shops, Waitrose, independent retailers in the South East and mail order.

ORPINGTON solicitors Clarkson Wright & Jakes LLP wrote a cheque for £20,000 after sponsoring the hole-in-one competition for a golf day staged by IT company Selection Services of Bromley.

The lucky winner was Joe Bichard of home furnishings group Walker Greenbank, who received the cheque from CWJ managing partner Andrew Wright and Selection Services’ sales director Vince White.

Joe said: “I wasn’t immediately sure the ball had gone in, then I heard the cheering from up near the green.”

Anthony Sutton and Ian Gay

‘Everything Honda’ arrives at Dockside

CHATHAM’S Dockside Outlet Centre has gained a new type of retailer, selling across the Honda range of power products.

G&M Motors is the UK’s longest-serving Honda motor dealer, having taken the franchise in Gravesend in 1972 and sells ‘everything Honda’ – from cars to inflatable boats and from generators and marine engines to lawn and garden machinery.

Dockside centre manager Anthony Sutton said: “This is a fantastic brand that will enhance the shopping experience at Dockside.”

G&M dealer principal Ian Gay was also excited by the opportunity: “We are keen to expand into Medway because of the area’s huge potential.”

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Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

1909

100 YEARS AGO: PERHAPS suffering from stage fright in front of a crowd of 22,000, New Brompton lost 6-2 at Crystal Palace.

The visitors trailed 3-1 at the interval, Court scoring their only goal, and although he struck again after the break, Palace ran out easy winners.

A travelling army of 500 fans from Northfleet (aka the Cementers) watched their side win a fiercely contested FA Cup derby at Chatham, attended by 4,000 at the Maidstone Road 'enclosure'.

Chatham were confident going into the game, but despite physically dwarfing their opponents, Northfleet's greater skill and fitness proved decisive.

The Chats went 1-0 up five minutes before the break, but Northfleet drew level within two minutes and ran away with the game in the second-half, winning 4-1 against a rapidly tiring home side.

Ramsgate won the Thanet derby, beating Margate 4-2.

1959

50 YEARS AGO: AN ALL-STAR line-up was announced for a football testimonial, held in honour of Kent and England wicket-keeper Godfrey Evans at the Athletic Ground in Maidstone.

Fulham's Johnny Haynes, Tottenham's Danny Blanchflower and Arsenal's Vic Groves were all named in the line-up for an All Stars XI, with Gillingham, bolstered by as yet unnamed guest players, providing the opposition.

In motorsport a total of six drivers from Kent were named in the starting line-up for the British International Rally, a 1,900-mile race from Blackpool to London: Seigleton from Gravesend, Fraser of Hildenborough, Tuck of Boxley, Wail of Folkestone, Trobe of Pluckley and Gethin of Folkestone.

STAR: Blanchflower

1984

25 YEARS AGO: FRANK Ovard, the man who turned the act of 'earning' a penalty into an art form, signed up for his third spell at Maidstone United and instantly inspired his team mates to a 3-0 win at Barnet.

Fog shrouded the pitch at Underhill, but play went ahead and Ovard set up John Bartley for the opener on 24 minutes.

Ovard was then duly 'fouled' by Kevin Millet for a penalty. Millet is reported to have told the referee: "You can't give that – that's Frank Ovard!"

But Bartley scored and Ovard then added a brilliant individual goal to make it 3-0 three minutes before the break.

"I was a bit concerned before the start because the gap in playing standards between the Southern and Gola Leagues is now vast," Ovard admitted. "But it went better than expected and the goal was certainly a bonus."

Ovard's arrival from Folkestone however, coincided with the acrimonious departure of Stones striker Micky Dingwall, who rejoined Dartford for £3,000, signed by manager John Still.

The former Gillingham player Damien Richardson turned out for Lashings in the Maidstone & Mid Kent Sunday League against Mereworth at Penenden Heath.

Increase in number of rugby injuries down to 'gym monkey' culture

By **STEVE TERVET**

WITH rugby's treatment tables seeing more action than ever before at international and Premiership level, Kent's clubs have spoken out about the growing concern over injuries.

While some insist the problem is confined to the upper echelons of the sport, the increasing physicality of the game appears to have filtered down through the leagues, and coaches and players are split as to where the solution lies.

Steve Reynolds, director of rugby at National League 2 South side Westcombe Park, revealed the situation has escalated in recent months and blamed the 'gym monkey' culture for the number of injuries occurring on a regular basis.

He said: "We're suffering far more with injuries than we have done before. Players are bigger – they're spending too much time in the gym bulking up, and as a result impacts are harder.

"I'd get rid of all padding. Even the juniors are going in harder because they're wearing padding and the number of injuries will prevent other youngsters getting into rugby.

"The longevity of players is crashing and in an ideal world I would start the season with six props and nine centres, because you pick up so many injuries in those positions."

TOUGH TIMES: The increased physicality of rugby has seen a rise in the number of injuries

Conversely, Medway first-team coach Taff Gwilliam believes more training and gym work is exactly what is needed to reduce injuries.

The London 3 South East club implemented a strength and conditioning programme for the start of the season and Gwilliam says they are reaping the benefits.

"The injury situation at Medway is no worse than last year because we prepared properly," he said. "We've come up into in a higher league, where teams are physically bigger and impacts are greater, hence the new programme.

"Players in lower divisions don't train, they just turn up for the game on Saturday and that increases the risk of injury."

Mike Catt, director of rugby at Kent 1 side Cranbrook, said the situation at county level was comparable to that in the Premiership, where 25 per cent of players are reportedly unavailable at any one time.

He said: "Impacts in the first-team are harder and we're picking up three or four injuries every week.

"It does worry me a little – players are wearing more padding and going into tackles not worried about protection. Shirts and boots are more lightweight than they used to be, so that may also be a factor."

In London 1 South, injuries halved Dover's squad from 32 to 16 earlier this season, but first XV captain Martyn Beaumont believes the problem is nothing new.

"At our level, knocks are part and parcel of the game," he said. "Players wear padding for cushioning, but it doesn't make much difference."

Spencer remains true to her roots

WHEN Catherine Spencer leads England out at Twickenham next Saturday afternoon, her thoughts will be of revenge as her side take on world champions New Zealand, ***writes Steve Tervet***.

However, the England captain is quick to acknowledge her rugby roots, having won 20 of her 49 international caps during her time at Folkestone RFC, and says the club she joined as a youngster will always retain a special place in her heart.

England's two-Test series against the Black Ferns will be the first time the sides have met since the Ferns triumphed in the 2006 World Cup final, with Spencer a member of the losing England side.

With two Six Nations titles and two Nations Cup victories now under their belt, England are out to set the record straight and with Saturday's match directly following the men's international between the same countries, and Spencer can't wait for kick-off.

CAPTAIN: Catherine Spencer of England

"It's going to be an amazing experience," she said. "I've played at Twickenham a couple of times, but to go out as captain – not many people get to do that.

"We haven't played New Zealand for three years, since they beat us in 2006, and I'd be lying if I said that game isn't still in our minds.

"They've set the benchmark and they're the team to beat, but we go into the game with a very good record ourselves."

Having captained England at Esher in yesterday's first meeting with the Ferns, Spencer will spend today back at Folkestone, watching the club's Fillies side take on Aylesford and catching up with old friends.

Although Spencer now plays and lives in Bristol, she says the south Kent club is very much her second home, especially as her parents live just four miles away, in Hythe.

She said: "The club's still very important to me, I still want to see them do well. I'll be a part of that club forever, no matter where I'm living.

"I'd like to think my success has impacted on women's rugby at Folkestone.

"I need to recognise I'm a role model for other players coming through."

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The Power takes aim at BDO

Visiting legend slams darts chiefs for failure to unify with PDC

By DAVID PRITCHARD

PHIL 'The Power' Taylor has criticised the British Darts Organisation (BDO)'s stance after it rejected an offer from the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) to unify the sport.

Taylor, the 14-time world champion, was in Gillingham this week with former ladies world champion Anastasia Dobromyslova, promoting a move by pool and snooker operator Riley's to put 'Darts Zones' into their clubs.

The undisputed darts champion took time out to give his views on why the BDO decided against joining the PDC and ending the ongoing rift that exists in the sport since the PDC broke away in 1993.

PDC chairman Barry Hearn announced last month he was willing to pay £1 million to buy the BDO and invest the same amount to develop the amateur game.

BDO founder Olly Croft turned down the offer immediately, saying the BDO was not for sale and branding the move as nothing more than a publicity stunt.

Taylor feels the BDO's decision was wrong, although he was happy with the PDC's approach.

He told Kent on Sunday: "What Barry did was a fantastic offer but instead of saying 'thank you but no thank you' they insulted him and stuck two fingers up to him, which I thought was disrespectful.

"Barry hasn't done anything wrong, he's just a promoter at the end of the day.

"I'm actually pleased about it because I'm a big shareholder in the PDC and I'd rather we invested £2m into something else."

Taylor added the European Darts Championship to his already bulging trophy collection earlier this month. This weekend he began his assault on the Grand Slam of Darts in Wolverhampton as the PDC gear up for the World Darts Championship at Alexandra Palace next month.

Despite dominating the sport for the best part of two decades, Taylor insists he never tires in his quest for more success.

He said: "It's a job, it's what I do. I always think I'm poor so when I get up in the mornings I think what can I do to better myself, how can I improve and make a living for my family.

"It's not the money – that's a bonus – it's about winning, it's about competing, it's about enjoying it. I love it."

ON THE OCHE: Phil Taylor with ex-women's world champ Anastasia Dobromyslova

England ace ups stick

Picture: ADY KERRY

BIG DECISION: Cathy Gilliat-Smith

CATHY Gilliat-Smith admits it was a difficult decision to leave Canterbury for Sevenoaks but felt it was the only way to accommodate changes in her career.

The 28-year-old left Polo Farm this month after more than four years with the county's top women's side.

Despite voluntarily turning her back on Premier Division hockey, the forward feels it was the only thing to do after starting a demanding teacher training course in September.

She said: "It was a difficult decision. I didn't want to leave Canterbury but it got to the stage with my course it was the best decision to make. I left on good terms; it's just one of those things.

"It's something I've been thinking about for a while. The course started in September and I gave it a few weeks to see how it went, but it didn't quite work out this time."

Dropping down a division to Sevenoaks in the Conference East means far less travel on match days. Close to Gilliat-Smith's home and work, it also means reduced commuting time and has offered a chance to return to the club she left 10 years ago for university.

Gilliat-Smith has already made an impact, scoring one goal and setting up another on her return to the Oaks side in a 3-1 win at Northampton Saints last weekend.

Although the move away from the top flight is likely to make the chances of adding to her 64 international caps more remote, it is not the priority at the moment.

She said: "I'd love to be back involved [internationally] but I'm not in the system at the moment. It's more about me enjoying my hockey, being part of a good team and contributing week-in, week-out."

Elsewhere, Ashley Jackson has been included in the England hockey squad for the Champions Trophy later this month.

The 22-year-old from Chatham, who played at Tunbridge Wells Hockey Club, is in Jason Lee's 18-man squad for the high-profile annual tournament.

Gymnast Courtney the pick for GB young guns

COURTNEY Tulloch will represent Great Britain at next month's World School Games in Qatar after adding another four international gold medals to his collection.

The Kent-based gymnast led the British under-14 team to a clean sweep at the Coupe Avenir in Malmedy, Belgium, last weekend, claiming the individual all-around crown as well as the team prize, with golds on floor and rings completing a near-perfect weekend for the teenager.

Were it not for errors on the pommel and parallel bars, Tulloch may have brought back an even greater haul to Maidstone's Pegasus Gymnastics Club, but he remained delighted by his, and the team's performance in the face of stiff competition from Russia, Romania, Sweden, Holland and Luxembourg as well as hosts Belgium.

He said: "I didn't expect to be competing against people like the Russians and I'm pleased to have won. It was a great venue and the competition was good as well."

Having claimed gold at the British Championships just a week earlier, Tulloch was restricted to four days training before jetting off to Belgium, but hard work on the vault and high bar paid off as he was scored 80 for the first time.

The weekend's performances added further weight to Great Britain's claim for a place among the heavyweights of gymnastics, and Tulloch now turns his attentions to the biggest stage of his career so far, with Qatar only four weeks away.

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BEST JUMPERS: (l-r) Jason Plowman, Matthew Swaffer and Dominic Swaffer

Trio spring into action against world's finest

THE county's British trampoline champions hope to return from Russia victorious on the international stage following this weekend's World Championship finals.

Jason Plowman and Matthew and Dominic Swaffer swept to glory in July's national championships at the NIA in Birmingham and were up against the best jumpers from Russia, China and Japan in St Petersburg over the past five days.

The trio, representing the Jumpers Rebound Centre in Gillingham, were joined in Russia by fellow Jumpers star Adeva Bryan, who reached the final of the women's double mini tramp (DMT) competition in Thursday's qualifiers with a score of 67.100.

Meanwhile, the men reached the final of the DMT team event, scoring 209.300 to edge out the Australians and join the favourites, Russia, along with Portugal, Canada and the United States.

Close

A place in the final of the individual event eluded them however, although Matthew Swaffer was painfully close to qualification, finishing immediately below the 10 finallists, just 0.4 points short of Canada's Alexander Seifert.

Jumpers' Vickie Riddell said the club were extremely proud to be represented in both finals, but said getting over the final hurdle would be tough, given the level of opposition.

She said: "The boys went in with medal chances but it's particularly tough facing the Russians on their home patch.

"Matthew and Dominic are both staples of the British team and Jason has represented Britain a couple of times so they're used to this sort of occasion."

The quartet now turn their attention to April's European Championships which will be held in Varna, Bulgaria.

Time to make Haye

Briton's heavyweight title win to give boxing a new lease of life, says former champ Barry

By GLENN PEARSON

A NEW British heavyweight champion will help breathe new life into the sport and encourage more youngsters into boxing, according to former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan.

More than 800,000 are believed to have paid to watch Bermondsey-born David Haye become the new WBA heavyweight champion last Saturday night, after he beat man-mountain Nikolai Valuev on points in Nuremberg, Germany.

The fight – billed as David v Goliath on Sky Box Office because of the seven stone and 11ins difference between the two fighters – helped put boxing back in the spotlight after several years in the doldrums.

Haye follows in the footsteps of boxing greats such as Lennox Lewis and Frank Bruno, who have both been heavyweight champions, and has the chance to continue promoting the division and the sport with potentially explosive fights against fellow heavyweight title-holders Vladimir and Vitali Klitschko next year.

Interest

Barry McGuigan, who has lived in Dargate near Faversham for the last 20 years, believes Haye's rise to fame is a good thing for the sport and he fully expects to see a boom in interest.

"There was a lot of people that watched the fight and it sparked great interest," he told Kent on Sunday. "He is an attractive guy who is very articulate and he can punch hard and all of those things have made people interested in him.

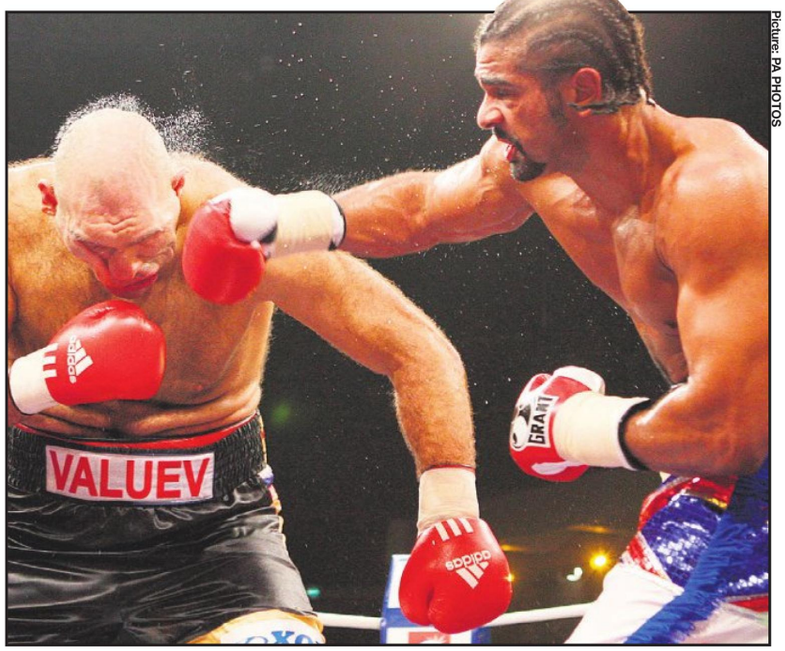
"It's great for the sport that Britain now has a world champion and now there's the chance of unification fights against the Klitschko brothers. He can transcend the sport."

McGuigan continues to coach at the Aylesham Boxing Club in Canterbury and has already noticed a surge in interest as a result of Haye's achievement. The 49-year-old, who won 32 of his 35 professional fights, believes that a British world champion, combined with the Olympic Games coming to these shores in 2012, will help unearth more boxing talent in Kent.

"[Haye] has stoked the interest again in casual boxing fans and has the chance to take the heavyweight division – which is the sport's shop window – firmly out of the doldrums and get it back to the Lennox Lewis days," he said.

"The interest in amateur boxing has gone through the roof as a result and with 2012 around the corner, there's a sense of anticipation in the sport.

"With the Olympics being held in Greenwich, the fast rail networks means international teams will want to use facilities in the county and that can only help. We've got some talented youngsters coming through, so it's looking very positive."



Picture: PA PHOTOS

BIG HIT: Barry McGuigan (left) says David Haye's WBA heavyweight title victory against Russian giant Nikolai Valuev will give boxing a massive lift

Gowling a happy camper at Gills

AFTER a nomadic start to his career, Josh Gowling has put his recent good form for Gillingham down to becoming settled off the pitch, ***writes David Pritchard.***

The 24-year-old has taken in a lot during his relatively short career, which started with frustration at being overlooked as a youngster at West Brom, to a two-year stint in Denmark's top flight, and relegation while on loan at Hereford last season.

Defender Gowling joined the Gills this summer following an unhappy year at Carlisle, much of which was spent on loan at struggling Hereford.

After an uncertain start to his Gillingham career, he is now one of the first names on the team sheet, form he puts down to finding a place to live nearby.

"It's been brilliant playing regular football," he said. "At Carlisle I was sitting around not doing a lot, so it's been nice to come in here and they're a great bunch of lads.

"I've moved out of the hotel now – I was there for about 12 or 13 weeks which was a bit of a nightmare. You're living out of your car, your stuff's everywhere and you just don't really settle. I was on loan for a while but as soon as I got a contract I was looking, it makes a big difference having a place of your own."

In the absence of the injured Simon King, Gowling has had to adapt quickly at Priestfield and is now forming a promising partnership with Matt Fry, the club's loan signing from West Ham.

Gills boss Mark Stimson signed Gowling permanently after the centre-back impressed on loan and is happy with his contribution so far.

He said: "Josh has done well. Over the last couple of years he hasn't had a lot of regular football, so for him it was about coming here and playing regularly and making a name for himself in the division."

The defender also helped recruit the squad's latest signing, Manchester United striker Febian Brandy. The pair were on loan at Hereford last season and Gowling helped persuade the striker, who scored on his debut last weekend, to join on loan.

He said: "I just said we have a great squad here, a good young manager and we want to do well and push up the league. Everything about Fab is sharp and I'm sure he'll get a lot of goals for us."

Picture: ADY KERRY

SETTLED: Josh Gowling is enjoying life at Priestfield after a hectic start to his career

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'The Olympic Games have saved sport in the UK'

In the first of her monthly columns, Hildenborough's DAME KELLY HOLMES says the chance to host the Games is an opportunity for sport not only nationwide, but in our county

KELLY'S EYE

THERE is no doubt in my mind that sport would be taking a backward step if it wasn't for the fact we as a nation, are hosting the 2012 Olympic Games.

Sport is being put at the top of the agenda once again and 2012 has really done that. If we hadn't have got the Olympics then I think we could have been going backwards in sport, if I'm to be honest.

There would have been other priorities, especially in light of the recession, and I don't believe people would have looked at sport so favourably.

Yet, while a lot of funding has been put at the high end of sport, there are question marks about whether we are seeing that filtering its way down to grassroots level.

Is funding finding its way to grassroots? At the moment I would probably say, no. It's now up to the National Governing odies to use the core funding from Sport England and UK Sport and ensure it finds it way from the elite level down to grassroots.

One thing we have to do though, when the Games come to these shores in three year's time, is ensure we capitalise on them as a county, and make the most of our close proximity to London.

We have to be ready for it and we have to sell ourselves – we have an amazing county with great facilities that are continuously being developed and I think already, with the launch of the hugely successful Kent School Games, we are taking our responsibility seriously.

The county is now selling itself to international teams and bidding for their world-class athletes to use gyms and sports venues around the county. For young people in Kent, the experience of seeing elite athletes up close can only be a good thing.

One other thing I feel we really need to do is be prepared for people who want to stay on after the Games, because that's where the money will be spent. If we want to make money on the back of the Olympics, we have to make sure we are part of it and encourage tourists to stay in the area once the Games have finished.

THERE have been a couple of things in the news this week that hasn't really painted athletics in its greatest light.

Firstly, former European 1500-metre champion Sureyya Ayhan Kop has been banned for life after failing a drugs test.

It's her second doping offence after obstructing a test before the 2004 Athens Olympics – the Games where I won gold in both the 800m and 1500m.

When I heard the news, I must say it did not surprise me whatsoever. I think people who use drugs to enhance performance are cheats and they should be banned for life.

HUMILIATED: Caster Semenya's gender test should have been carried out before the World Championships

I went through a long hard journey to get where I got in athletics, so to see somebody just use performance-enhancing drugs, without putting that hard work in, well to me that's just greed.

Do people do it for the financial gain of being successful, or is it an easy way to get a medal? Because for me, that medal can't mean that much if you know you've cheated to get there.

The system is there to catch people now and the Anti-Doping Authority is making a lot of progress, but there are always going to be those out there who want to cheat the system because they can make money out of it.

To me it's just plain cheating and it's not good for sport or for the young people who look up to sports men and women as role models.

I've also kept in touch with the gender issue that has rocked athletics since South African athlete Caster Semenya won gold in the 800m final at the World Championships in Berlin.

Firstly, I'd say I think it's shocking that a report questioning her gender should come out and be made so public before an 18-year-old girl is about to take part in a major athletics event.

She won at the World Junior Championships, so if there had been an issue about her gender then, she shouldn't have been entered at Berlin.

My personal view is that I don't think she will run again, I don't see how she can. She would be taking the world on her shoulders with the way it has been made so public and now administrators are being suspended for admitting they lied about certain things.

It's one young girl that's been caught up in the mix and it's not for anyone to make any strong judgements because there are so many question marks.

How could they have done this to her? I think it was handled wrongly and shouldn't have been made so public, I feel sorry for her and it's humiliating for her to go through as a young person.

• ***Dame Kelly Holmes, the county's double Olympic gold medallist, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

Dame Kelly Holmes is mentoring talented young middle-distance athletes and their coaches through her On Camp with Kelly initiative, supported by Aviva. For more information visit www.oncampwithkelly.co.uk.

Picture: ADY KERRY

MISSED CUT: Benn Barham will have to go back to Qualifying School

No ifs or putts as Benn loses his tour card

BENN Barham suffered a nightmare finish to his season on Friday which saw the golfer lose his guaranteed place on the European Tour for next season.

The 33-year-old, from Ashford, went into the JBWere Masters in Melbourne, Australia, needing a top-five finish to catapult him up the rankings at the end of a disappointing season.

While Tiger Woods drew huge galleries at the Kingston Heath Golf Club, Barham began steadily.

A level par round of 72 kept him firmly in contention on day one, but his hopes fell apart early on in round two.

Dropping six shots in his opening nine holes on Friday, he plummeted down the leaderboard and never recovered, carding a six-over-par 78 to miss the cut.

It meant Barham was unable to finish in the top-115 for the season, losing his card for next year.

His last chance of getting on tour in 2010 is a return to the notoriously difficult Qualifying School, but speaking ahead of this week's tournament, the Chart Hills pro was relaxed about the prospect.

He said: "The situation is not a matter of life and death and if anything, it has given me a kick to perform better next year.

"I have been to Qualifying School four times before and if I have to do that I don't think it will be a problem. My game has improved so much from the last time I was there."

Barham will go into the final stage of qualifying, held over six rounds at the PGA Golf de Catalunya in Spain. Beginning on November 28, the top 30 players receive a card to the 2010 European Tour season.

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46

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KELLY IN PLEA TO OUR TOP ATHLETES

TOUGH TALK: Kelly Holmes

Track stars need to speed up, says golden girl Kelly

EXCLUSIVE

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT'S double Olympic gold medallist, Dame Kelly Holmes, says British athletes need to start producing results and capitalise on the interest sparked by Usain Bolt's achievements.

The 39-year-old, who won gold at the Athens Games in 2004, went as far as saying 100-metre Olympic and World champion Bolt, from Jamaica, has single-handedly saved the sport.

"Athletics is now interesting because of one man, I'm sorry to say that, but the only reason athletics was popular this year was because of Bolt," she said.

Downward slide

"There were more people that watched the World Championships because of that man and I don't care, that's the truth.

"If that's helped athletics be a sport that provides a platform to be more recognised then great, but I have to say, I think athletics has been saved by him."

Down the years, British hopes have been pinned on the likes of Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett, Sally Gunnell, Linford Christie and Holmes herself, but in recent years athletics in this country has been on a downward slide.

Holmes, who was born in Pembury and lives in Hildenborough, near Tonbridge, believes British athletics need a stand-out performer to help it thrive again, and to achieve something similar to the Bolt effect.

LIGHTNING: Kelly Holmes says athletes need to take inspiration from the running feats of the world's fastest man Usain Bolt

She said: "We haven't done well as a sport in this country for quite a long time considering how much funding that has gone into it – the performances that have come out the other end have been quite poor," she said.

"This year at Berlin that has changed a bit with the likes of Jessica Ennis and Lisa Dobriskey doing well.

"But the sport need to have athletes that are the best in the world, not just for one year, they have to be over a period of time and I think that will get the interest back, because unfortunately it is star-led."

INSIDE THIS WEEK: Dame Kelly Holmes pens the first of her exclusive monthly columns for Kent on Sunday

For
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